

## KGB 'peace protesters' stampede Jewish rally

From Christopher Walker  
Moscow

The policy of *glasnost* suffered an embarrassing setback yesterday on the eve of the summit when hundreds of KGB thugs posing as "peace demonstrators" used strong-arm tactics to break up a demonstration by Jews protesting at emigration restrictions in a snow-covered square opposite the Foreign Ministry.

The well-planned counter-demonstration by burly men using wooden peace placards and fists to attack the Jews and the cameramen from the main American television networks was the most violent seen in Moscow since Jewish protesters and Western reporters were beaten up in the Arbat district last spring.

The undisguised brutality of the KGB reaction and its timing led some senior diplomats to speculate whether it was an

attempt by hard-liners opposed to reform to sabotage Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington. "Those in charge must have been aware what damage television footage of this will cause," one Western observer said.

I was repeatedly surrounded by angry crowds, made up mostly of thugs in fur hats and leather coats, whenever I tried to interview some of about 50 Jewish protesters, who included a number of women who had posters demanding to leave for Israel ripped from their hands.

"Why do you want to report on these Jewish provocateurs when you have real demonstrators for peace here? Are you a provocateur too?" one of the thugs shouted menacingly. Another shoved his poster in front of my face to prevent me talking to a frail-looking Jewish woman, Mrs Leah Chernobylsky, aged 40.

Soviet Foreign Ministry officials were

embarrassed at the timing of the strong-arm tactics, organized by a thick-set man with an earpiece who had been present at the Arbat demonstration earlier in the year. One of the "peace demonstrators" was clearly visible listening to a walkie-talkie wrapped in a copy of *Pravda*.

Some of the worst violence was meted out to a crew from the US Cable News Network, whose correspondent, Mr Peter Arnett, was repeatedly kicked and punched before being dragged away to a waiting vehicle. US Embassy officials secured his release four hours later.

Mrs Chernobylsky, whose husband, Boris, has been refused an exit visa for 15 years for his alleged possession (as a former radio engineer) of state secrets, was holding the arms of her daughters, Hannah, aged 16, and Gena, aged 14, as we attempted to talk while the KGB

men, accompanied by well-rehearsed members of the public, moved in.

"It was very difficult to get here, they tried to stop us but we went through the summit to know about our plight," said Mrs Chernobylsky, remarkably undeterred by the harassment. "We have already been beaten today but this is something we feel we have to do."

At that point, the conversation ended as the "peace demonstrators", many with their breath reeking of vodka, began to jostle me. "Tell people that the Soviet public wants peace. We are the Soviet people, not these types here," one said, pointing to the family of Jews.

The Moscow rally was planned to link with other pre-summit Jewish protests in Washington and Tel Aviv. "We expected about 70 people," said Mr David Schwartzman, one of the organizers. "I think that they all came, but the Soviet

authorities attracted many more people to the same spot."

Despite the peace slogans, and the occasional out of place doves painted on the banners, the counter-demonstrators did little to hide their official origins. One of them was attempting to pull the wires from cameras belonging to Soviet television, only to be prevented from doing so by a burly colleague who told him loudly: "That is one of ours."

● WASHINGTON: The United States will protest to the Soviet Union immediately over the manhandling of American correspondents at the demonstration, a senior official said (Charles Bremner writes).

Mrs Rozanne Ridgway, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, said the US had received a full account of the rough behaviour by KGB security police and the detention of Mr Arnett.



Mr Arnett (left) is dragged away by KGB men and a militia colonel.

## EEC blessing on Gorbachov and Thatcher

● Mrs Thatcher meets Mr Gorbachov today at Brize Norton with the backing of a joint EEC declaration supporting the impending INF treaty

● Mr George Shultz has given a categorical pledge that the US will not seek any reduction now of battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe

● Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Soviet spokesman, indicated a softening of the Russian approach to the testing of Star Wars

● The main points on the agenda in Washington include cuts in nuclear weapons, Star Wars, Afghanistan and Central America (Page 8)

From Richard Owen in Copenhagen and Philip Webster in London

The Prime Minister goes into her meeting today with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov after a European declaration that backs the impending superpower nuclear arms deal.

She returned to London from the EEC summit in Copenhagen with a joint statement that supports the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty and expresses high hopes for the Washington summit between Mr Gorbachov and President Reagan.

The Community meeting did not give Mrs Thatcher a mandate to speak to Mr Gorbachov on behalf of Europe as a whole. But British officials said she had not sought such a mandate, and diplomats said it was highly significant that Mr Gorbachov regarded Mrs Thatcher as the European leader with whom it would be most fruitful to have a pre-summit meeting.

Mrs Thatcher told *The Times* that Mr Gorbachov had chosen to come to Britain on his way to Washington because the British and Soviet leaders put on very well and were able to hold constructive talks, even on difficult issues.

### IN PART 2

#### Airline bid

SAS, the Scandinavian airline, is expected to brave government opposition and make a fresh attempt to win Civil Aviation Authority approval for its partial bid for British Caledonian. Page 25

#### Rich pickings

Ian Woosnam became golf's first player to win more than a million pounds in a year with victory in the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge. Page 40

#### Portfolio

● The £3,000 prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold weekly competition was won by a reader from Worplesdon, Surrey, while the £12,000 prize in the daily contest, three times the usual amount, was shared by five readers. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio list, page 30.

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## Shultz gives arms pledge to Europe

From Michael Binyon  
and Christopher Thomas  
Washington

On the eve of the historic summit meeting tomorrow between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov, Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, gave a categorical pledge that the US would not seek any reduction now of battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe.

He said that such a step was far down the road, and could not take place until the Soviet Union had made large cuts in its conventional forces. "We have more than 4,000 nuclear weapons remaining in Europe, and they should stay there for the present so that we have a continued credibility in the flexible response process."

Mr Shultz's remarks will reassure Western Europe, which is worried by any superpower moves towards the denuclearization of Europe. Mr Shultz said that after negotiating a cut of 50 per cent in strategic arms, the US would concentrate on reducing conventional arms, along with chemical weapons.

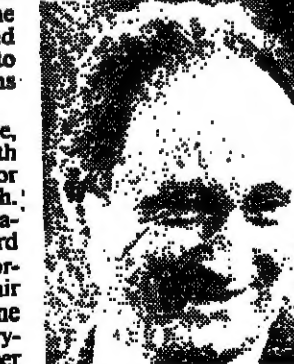
Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday the Soviet Union wanted to see battlefield nuclear reduction. "It's a good idea, but you don't like it," he told American television interviewers.

Mr Gerasimov said Moscow was ready to talk about reductions in conventional forces, "and I think we can accept this principle of asymmetric reductions". Reinforcing the hints here that Mr Gorbachov is willing to be more flexible now on the US strategic defence initiative than he was at Reykjavik, Mr Gerasimov said there was no quarrel now over interpreting the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, though there might be later. "Why argue about possible future quarrels?" he said in reference to the dispute over testing limits in the treaty.

He said SDI was not technically feasible. Moscow did not care about SDI as such, but was worried that during the research period the US would devise some new offensive weapons.

The breakdown of the Reykjavik summit last year was essentially over Moscow's insistence on a precise agreement on what limits should be imposed on testing under Star Wars. In its new strategy the

Continued on page 24, col 5



Mr Gerasimov: Apparently easing up on Star Wars.

## Airmen's flight into fancy



Brize Norton dress-rehearsal: Squadron Leader Frank Huddleston, playing Mr Gorbachov, leading Flight Lieutenant Debbie Ferkin, in the role of Mrs Gorbachov, on to the tarmac at the RAF base yesterday. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

By Nicholas Beeston

No Soviet leader ever looked quite so British as Squadron Leader Frank Huddleston when he descended the steps on to the apron of RAF Brize Norton yesterday, condemning himself for ever more to the nickname "Mikhail" in the officers' mess.

For the photographers and security men the afternoon's dress rehearsal for one of the most important visitors to the air base has ever entertained was an opportunity to select vantage points for recording and protecting Mr Mikhail Gorbachov during his fleeting two-hour stop-over.

A VC10 standing in for the Gorbachov aircraft taxied to a

halt in front of the guard of honour as the Soviet national anthem and Squadron Leader Huddleston led the party of airmen turned actors to the reception committee below.

By his side was Flight Lieutenant Debbie Ferkin, playing the part of Mrs Raisa Gorbachov. Her performance went smoothly although the anorak and Russian-style hat failed to match the now famous fur-collared style. Flight Lieutenant Ferkin was spared Mrs Gorbachov's entire itinerary.

Miss Katie Abbott, a nurse in her 20s engaged to a squadron leader at Brize Norton, played the Prime Minister, leading a cold-looking group of senior British "ministers" on the tarmac.

"I have no comment," she told newsmen, an uncharacteristic response from the Prime Minister, who is expected to do as much talking as possible today when she attempts to squeeze as many of the key items of the summit agenda into Mr Gorbachov's 120 minutes in Britain.

The hours spent practising and rehearsing the visit were recompensed for the officers and wives at the base over the weekend, who dined on grilled salmon with hollandaise sauce, Parisian potatoes and broccoli, and raspberry vacherin, also part of the dry

run.

## Mayhew acts over GCHQ disclosure

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Attorney-General has taken steps to stop further disclosures of material relating to the security services by the journalist Duncan Campbell.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, has taken out a High Court writ seeking an order to stop disclosures of documents alleged to have been leaked from current or former employees of the Government's Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), at Cheltenham which would be in breach of the duty of confidence they owe the Crown.

The move comes in the wake of the Government's action to stop the broadcast of the BBC Zircon spy satellite programme during which Mr Campbell's flat was raided.

It is the latest action by the

Government in what appears to be an increasing clamp on press reporting of material from the security and intelligence services.

After the wide-ranging ban obtained last week by the Attorney-General over three BBC radio programmes, *My Country Right Or Wrong*, there will be a meeting today between Mr John Wilson, BBC controller of editorial policy, and the producer of the programmes, Miss Anne Sloan, with the secretary of the D-notice committee.

Last week Mr John Birt, the BBC's deputy director general, asked the Attorney-General to lift the injunction.

The aim of today's meeting is to try to assure him that the programmes contain nothing that breaches confidentiality so that the ban might be lifted.

## 'Unnamed picture' appeal in search for woman

By Michael Horsnell

Detectives searching for Mrs Shirley Banks took the highly unusual step yesterday of issuing a photograph of a man whose name they are not able to disclose for legal reasons.

The man's movements are believed to be vital in solving the mystery of the disappearance of Mrs Banks. The gravity of the investigation was given by police as the reason for the move, which is aimed at tracing anyone who can remember talking to the man about letting him accommodation.

Det Supt Tim Bryan, who is leading the hunt for Mrs Banks, aged 28, of Bristol, said that he wanted to speak to any member of the public over the renting or letting of any type of premises between January last year and October this year.

The man in the photograph was not named by the officer, who has been searching for Mrs Banks, a sales

manageress, since her disappearance more than eight weeks ago.

In the past the police have released photographs of wanted men whom they have named to alert the public. In this case they are not naming the man for legal reasons. It is understood that high ranking officers from Avon and

### Photographs

Somerset took legal advice before issuing the photograph.

The nationwide appeal coincided yesterday with the issuing of photographs of four keys which police believe could fit a door to a room or garage concealing Mrs Banks.

Det Supt Bryan, of the Avon and Somerset police, said: "We need to identify the premises the keys fit. We are keeping an open mind but one theory is they could open a flat, a bed-sit or lock-up garages which have been

either rented or borrowed absolutely anywhere in the country.

"We should like to hear from anyone who may have spoken to the man, especially in connection with the renting or letting of accommodation of any type of premises or accommodation."

Anyone with information should contact their local police station, the officer said. The keys were described as:

● A bronze Yale-type, marked HDIA and with the word "Casswells" stamped on it;

● A silver mortice key, marked "Union Parkes" and "M159M", which would fit a three-lever Union mortice lock;

● A flat silver key which would possibly fit a garage or locker.

Police would not disclose where the four keys were obtained. Mrs Banks and her husband, Richard, aged 30, of High Street, Clifton, Bristol, had been married only one month when she vanished on the evening of October 8.

She disappeared after visiting the city's Broadmead shopping centre where she bought clothes she was to have worn for an evening out with her husband at a restaurant near their home. Her yellow Mini Clubman was found three weeks later in the garage of a flat in Bristol.

Detectives investigating the disappearance of Miss Suzy Lamplugh, the London estate agent, joined the investigation last month to examine possible links. The Humberside police have also been checking links with the disappearance of Mrs Gloria Bielby, aged 36, in Hull in 1979.

## NHS cash crisis angers top doctors

By Pearce Wright

Leading medical organizations yesterday launched a bitter attack on the Government's policies on health, on the eve of the second reading today in the Commons of the Health and Medicines Bill, which would impose charges for eye tests and dental checks.

The Government also faces a growing revolt among its own backbenchers about the scheme.

The unprecedented and blistering criticism came in a statement on the "crisis in the NHS" from the presidents of three senior medical colleges: Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, of the Royal College of Physicians; Mr Ian Todd, of the Royal College of Surgeons; and Mr George Pinder, of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

They said: "Each day we learn of new problems in the NHS. Beds and operating rooms are not available, emergency wards are closed, essential services are shut down in order to make financial savings. In spite of the efforts of doctors, nurses and other hospital staff, patient care is deteriorating."

"Acute hospital services have almost reached breaking point. Morale is depressingly low."

"It is not only patient care that is suffering. Financial stringencies have hit academic aspects of medicine in particular, because of the additional burden of reduced University Grants Committee funding. Yet the future of medicine depends on the quality of our clinical teachers and research workers."

"Face-saving initiatives such as the allocation of £30 million for waiting lists are not the answer. An immediate overall review of acute hospital services is mandatory. Additional and alternative funding must be found."

Continued on page 24, col 3

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Fraud inquiry at City watchdog

One of the main organizations set up to regulate the City after the recent wave of scandals has become the subject of a fraud inquiry.

A report on the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which aims to control most independent life assurance and investment brokers, has been compiled for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and referred to the Attorney General. Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has also been informed.

It is the second unfavourable report on Fimbra received by the minister. Last Friday, Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, reported that part of its rule book may not be in the best interests of the public.

## Soldiers charged

Three paratroopers are to appear in court in Salisbury today, accused of causing grievous and actual bodily harm after a man's nose was bitten off in a brawl on Saturday.

The painter, aged 25, had his nose severed at the base. It was seen back on by surgeons after he was injured during incidents in Salisbury after a party held by members of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

The soldiers are understood to have clashed with a group of local men.

## City jobs threat

Councillors in Manchester are due to meet today to discuss how to bridge a £109 million gap between spending plans and income for next year. The Labour-controlled authority faces a potential loss of 4,000 jobs among a workforce of 42,000 in sweeping cuts.

Reductions of between £30 million and £40 million will be put before the policy and resources committee. Its proposals will be considered in public at the full council meeting on December 16.

## Ancient fish farms

A site earmarked as a dump for waste from two power stations is to be excavated by archaeologists who believe it holds evidence of medieval commercial life.

The plot, near Selby in North Yorkshire, contains the remains of a moated, medieval manor house and remains of a number of lagoons which archaeologists believe provide evidence that fish farming was practised commercially between 600 and 700 years ago.

An initial two-year excavation will be done by North Yorkshire County Council with the costs of £50,000 met by the Central Electricity Generating Board, which has made the site available until the end of the century.

## Ferry case appeal

The appeal of Captain David Lewry, master of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, against the findings of the official inquiry conducted by Mr Justice Sheen, will be heard in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court today.

The inquiry held that Captain Lewry was wrong to assume that the ferry's bow doors were closed and that he must accept personal responsibility for the loss of his ship.

The inquiry suspended his master's certificate for 12 months.

## Pit accepts closure

More than three-quarters of the 550 miners working at Linby colliery, Nottinghamshire, have voted to accept redundancy terms, rather than oppose the pit's closure.

The men, members of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, were producing 9,000 tonnes of coal a week. British Coal insists that the pit must produce 13,000 tonnes to survive. The pit's 250 NUM members oppose closure.

South Wales miners' leaders are expected to challenge Mr Arthur Scargill this week over his decision to call an election for the NUM presidency.

If the attempt to postpone the election fails, South Wales's 10,000 miners will choose a candidate on Friday to oppose him.

## Karpov's defence salvages a draw

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Seville

Anatoly Karpov, playing black, defended with great calm to salvage a draw after 37 moves in the twentieth game of the world chess championship on Friday night.

Karpov, the challenger, was hit with an inspired sequence of opening moves by Gary Kasparov, culminating in the temporary sacrifice of a piece on move 11.

The champion moved quickly and confidently while Karpov was determined to thread his way through the myriad complications that Kasparov had conjured up.

As the opening complexities subsided, Kasparov entered the middle game with a clear strategic edge, but Karpov demonstrated what a great player he is under pressure and fought back.

Time and again he found the only resource open to him to keep his position afloat and, when faced with the imminent loss of the game on time on move 32, he still produced the excellent defensive resource, f5.

After this defensive coup, Kasparov's initiative swiftly melted away and the draw

Opening: Queen's Gambit declined.

White	Black	20	White	40
1 Nf3	d5	21	Nd4	Nb6
2 Nc3	e7	22	Nc3	Bd6
3 Bb1	Nf6	23	Bb1	Rd8
4 Nf3	Nb6	24	Rd1	Rc8
5 Qc2	d4	25	Rc1	Qc7
6 Qc2	Qc7	26	Qc2	Qc7
7 Qc2	Qc7	27	Qc2	Qc7
8 Qc2	Qc7	28	Qc2	Qc7
9 Qc2	Qc7	29	Qc2	Qc7
10 Qc2	Qc7	30	Qc2	Qc7
11 Qc2	Qc7	31	Qc2	Qc7
12 Qc2	Qc7	32	Qc2	Qc7
13 Qc2	Qc7	33	Qc2	Qc7
14 Qc2	Qc7	34	Qc2	Qc7
15 Qc2	Qc7	35	Qc2	Qc7
16 Qc2	Qc7	36	Qc2	Qc7
17 Qc2	Qc7	37	Qc2	Qc7
18 Qc2	Qc7	38	Qc2	Qc7
19 Qc2	Qc7	39	Qc2	Qc7
20 Qc2	Qc7	40	Qc2	Qc7

Final positions in game 20

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## TV-am to broadcast limited news show

By John Spicer

Television technicians were picketing in force outside the studios of TV-am today in an effort to persuade the staff not to co-operate in producing a 30-minute version of *Good Morning Britain*.

The breakfast show, presented by Anne Diamond, has been off the air for a fortnight in a dispute over manning levels for an outside production of the station's *Caring Christmas* charity appeal.

It has been replaced with cartoons and old *Batman* films, but last week Mr Bruce Gynell, TV-am's chief,

ordered rehearsals with management staff taking over technicians' jobs.

This morning's show, running from 8 to 8.30am, involved about 25 people, including secretaries helping as programme assistants. Normally *Good Morning Britain* runs from 6am until 9.30am.

Three days of rehearsals last week, with Mr Gynell in charge of the control room, convinced TV-am it could resume a limited version of the show.

It planned to open with a news bulletin, followed by a review of the papers, then a studio interview with

Mr Adam Boulton, TV-am's political correspondent, on the arrival in Britain today of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, for a meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Rehearsals had shown that members of the management, all with a background of television production, could also handle a sports and weather slot as well as deal with stories that might have broken overnight.

The ACTT pickets, marshalled by extra police, were far more persistent yesterday in trying to persuade people not to enter the TV-am studios at Camden Lock in north London, than

they had been during last week's round-the-clock picketing shifts.

But late last night a TV-am spokesman said the company expected members of other unions, such as the NUJ (journalists), the EETPU (electricians) and Bets (make-up and scenery) to cross picket lines.

TV-am has been told by the Independent Broadcasting Authority that an improvement in the station's services was expected. If the effort at producing a shortened version of this morning's programme is successful, TV-am plans to extend it beyond this morning's 30-minute show.

## Labour sees union link as key to larger membership

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A much closer involvement with trade unions and a revised party conference are being planned by Labour in an attempt to create a mass membership party and improve its electoral prospects.

The changes would sideline the left-wing activists whom Mr Kinnock and associates believe have diverted attention from Labour's policies and wrecked its electoral appeal.

Among moves being considered are:

- Allowing trades unions to recruit members directly into the Labour Party.
- Reducing party subscription from £10.60 a year to something more like a flag day contribution.
- Ending the practice of debating almost every aspect of policy each year at conference and staging detailed debates on no more than three or four subjects.
- Switching from the traditional ward-based structure to put more emphasis on branches based on the workplace.

The plans emerged at the "Meeting the Blues" conference staged in London over the weekend by the Fabian Society to mark the opening of Labour's policy review and the series of "Labour Listens" conferences.

The changes are likely to be resisted by the left, which will see them as tightening leadership control over the party's affairs.

Mr Gordon Brown, one of Mr Neil Kinnock's closest associates in the shadow Cabinet, told the conference that Labour's membership of less than 300,000 was less than the Mothers Union and little more than half that of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Yet there were nearly 10 million trades unionists, six million of whom paid the political levy. On the level of continental socialist parties Labour should have a

membership of between one and two million.

Mr Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, conceded that the increase in the cost of membership to £10.60 had been a mistake.

Mr Whitty called for rule changes at next October's conference to be implemented in January 1989, allowing trades union branches and offices to recruit people directly into the party.

He called for more resources to be given to the experiment of work-place branches. Union memberships were now representative of the country as a whole, he said, but Labour's membership was not. He said that it would be "catastrophic" if it failed to win the next election. "If you insist on positions you had 20 or 30 years ago, if you insist nothing has changed then you are dead."

● The party to be formed by merging the Liberals and Social Democrats is likely to be called the Democrats.

However, Liberal activists led by Mr Tony Greaves will fight a rearguard action at the final negotiating session tomorrow and Wednesday to keep the word "Liberal" in the title.

Mr David Steel, who originally favoured "Liberal Democrats", and senior colleagues are not expected to oppose the title.

The party will have a subtitle, The United Liberal and Social Democratic Party, which will be of some comfort to activist Liberals and make it difficult for any Mr David Owen breakaway party to retain the SDP title.

## Farmers' EEC dismay



A final blow-dry for White Lady, a heifer, from Miss Sally Ennor on the eve of the Royal Smithfield show, which opens in London today (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The farming industry was "completely confused" after the breakdown in the EEC context of a market of 320 million people, was 3p a person a day.

Mr Coleclough, speaking on the eve of the show, which opens to the public today, derided the haggling over what he described as a "minuscule" amount of money. He said that farmers needed a national policy which would enable them to plan at least three or four years ahead.

The total EEC budget was financed by 1.4 per cent of value-added tax. Of that the

cereals sector, which was the main stumbling block, cost £3.3 billion, which in the

"Throughout the world British farmers are numbered among the best", he said.

The industry should demand British-led research and debate into the whole area of alternative industrial use for crops, rather than rely on other countries to take the lead, Mr Coleclough added.

The show at Earls Court, west London, includes a display of a "computerized" farm of the future, with milking by robots, automatic pig feeding

and on-farm weather forecasting.

It is open from 9am to 6pm; admission is £7.50 today, tomorrow and Wednesday, and £4.50 on Thursday.

● A call for the Government to abolish inheritance tax on agricultural land, woodlands and country estates, is made in a booklet published today by the Social Affairs Unit.

In it Dr Barry Bracewell-Milnes describes the tax as the single most damaging imposition on private ownership.

"Caring for the Countryside, Public Dependence on Private Interests (Social Affairs Unit, 9, Chesterfield Street, London W1X 7HF).

## Extradition reforms 'unworkable'

By John Cooney, Dublin

Mr Nicholas Fenn, British ambassador to Ireland, said on Irish radio yesterday that although the Government found the republic's new extradition safeguards unattractive, it would try to make them work in good faith.

The ambassador had been asked to explain Britain's reservations about the extradition bill passed by the Dail on Thursday.

The interview by Mr Fenn, a former press secretary to Lord Carrington and ambassador in Dublin for a year, was judged by the Irish political establishment to be the most forthright public exposition to be given by a British diplomat resident in Ireland in recent years.

Referring to the recent difficulties experienced by the Royal Ulster Constabulary in executing an extradition warrant for the return to Northern

Ireland of the Maze escapee Paul Anthony Kane, before his release by Irish police after 48 hours' detention, Mr Fenn said that the present system "worked with difficulty" and was now to be replaced by a system Britain feared would not work at all.

Mr Fenn said that Britain was "extremely sceptical" of the new role given to the British and Irish Attorney-Generals in vetting extradition warrants.

## Development corporations

## Ridley keeps inner city role

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, will announce today four new "mini" urban development corporations.

By doing so, Mr Ridley emphasizes that his department has no intention of relinquishing its central role in inner city policy, whether or not the Prime Minister appoints another Cabinet minister responsible for this area.

The new corporations will have similar powers to the London Docklands Development Corporation and the authorities that have been established on Merseyside, Teesside, Tyne-side, Trafford in Manchester and Dudley in the West Midlands. But their areas and budgets will be much smaller.

The Department of the Environment has kept their location secret to prevent land speculation. Among possible

Mr John Mills, the former Camden Labour councillor whose business record led the Department of the Environment to dismiss him as deputy chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, will be blackballed again if the corporation attempts to retain him as a special consultant.

It emerged yesterday that the development corporation

sites are Leicester and South-wark or Lambeth in London.

A problem with London is that there are few areas that do not include high numbers of residents, whereas development areas outside the capital have been set up on derelict or industrial land.

Mr Ridley has said that the development corporations would not need large budgets because they were not to hold

can keep Mr Mills on only if it halves his salary of £18,000 a year. All consultancy appointments paying more than £10,000 a year have to be confirmed by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Department of the Environment said yesterday that having dismissed him once Mr Ridley was not likely to reinstate him.

land but to assemble packages of land and buildings which would be sold quickly to private developers.

● The Prince of Wales's role as scourge of inner-city architecture and planning has made him a "memorable catalyst" for progress, Mr Nick Wates, joint author of the book *Community Architecture* said yesterday.

Letters, page 17

## DPP faces legal action on crown 'case vetting'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Crown prosecution lawyers are to sue the Director of Public Prosecutions over the use of junior Civil Servants with no legal qualifications to vet cases before trial.

Their union, the First Division Association, is instituting High Court proceedings to restrain the DPP, Mr Allan Green, QC, from what it claims is an unlawful use of staff under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

Miss Robyn Dasey, assistant secretary of the association, said yesterday: "The crown prosecution management has already started as part of a rolling plan to use junior staff with no legal qualifications to review charges and evidence; and to determine whether a case will be prosecuted."

The kinds of cases involved included burglary, theft, and criminal damage, she said.

The union had taken legal

advice and the view was that this was contrary to the Act setting up the service.

Lawyers in the service felt that the use of unqualified staff was detrimental to the criminal justice system and to individuals in it, Miss Dasey added.

The management had denied that junior clerks were being used for anything more than what it called "screening", but lawyers were not satisfied that was the case, she said.

They believed the reason for the use of junior clerks was the shortage of lawyers.

There are 1,250 lawyers, which accounts for roughly 70 per cent of the 1,740 posts for crown prosecution service lawyers in England and Wales.

The crown prosecution service management has consistently maintained that its use of junior clerks is not illegal.

## Drugs chief has to tackle infighting

By Stewart Tendler and Tony Dawe

A full in-tray faces Mr Barry Price, former chief constable of Cambridgeshire, as he takes his seat today as the new head of the national drugs intelligence unit at Scotland Yard.

Mr Price will fight his pipe and contemplate reports showing that Britain is experiencing a flood of cocaine, while the heroin trade remains substantial and the cannabis market flourishes.

That may not perturb Mr Price, a calm man who has considerable experience in the control of drugs, but behind the drama and alarms of the war against the drug trafficker lies another subterranean guerrilla struggle. Mr Price finds himself the referee of a battle between the forces fighting the drugs epidemic.

Friction between Customs investigators and detectives is not new. It was Customs

investigators who uncovered allegations of corruption in the Yard's central drugs squad in the early 1970s, but in the past year animosity has intensified. At times the two sides seem to be as keen to outsmart each other as to better traffickers.

At the highest level, Customs officials and Scotland Yard deprecate the continuing antagonism and are trying to patch together working agreements. Both sides know that behind the squabbles lie big issues of policy.

Customs investigators, aided by a superb intelligence network and a reputation for honesty, dominated the field for much of the 1970s and early 1980s. However, by 1983, the drug problem had mushroomed and the Home Office told chief constables that the police could no longer

ignore the traffickers; police activity expanded rapidly. Arbitration disputes began to appear and even now the two sides are locked in debate about fresh guidelines.

Customs investigators were supposed to stop the importation of drugs but did that mean

they also operated beyond the ports in force areas? Police were prepared to allow drug cargoes to travel to their destinations under surveillance, while Customs officers queried such potentially dangerous practices.

The debate has intensified because the EEC intends to remove some frontier controls.

However, Mr Price can take some comfort from signs that the atmosphere at the national intelligence unit is improving. A Customs officer has become joint chief of operations, police have been given access to the Customs computer, and there is a move to convert police staff into Civil Servants responsible to the Home Office, which may help put both sides on the same footing.

If the arguments do not stop, only the drug traffickers will benefit.



Mr Barry Price: referee between Customs and police.

## School governor alleges racism

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The Inner London Education Authority is investigating claims of racism at a comprehensive school in a dispute which threatens to assume the scale of that involving Miss Maureen McGoldrick, a former headteacher at Brent, north London.

Governors at Quintin Kynaston, where 50 per cent of the 1,000 pupils are from ethnic minorities, are being questioned by the Ilea after allegations by a governor, Mr Gerald Ramperand, that staff appointed or promoted on selection criteria which favour white candidates.

However other school governors have suggested that Mr Ramperand is a spokesman for a minority of Labour-appointed governors who are systematically blocking appointments of white teachers by forcing Labour colleagues to vote with them or be branded racists.

Mr Ramperand was not available for comment yesterday. However one governor, who asked not to be named, said: "What is going on here is a diabolical sham. The school is suffering by being used as a battleground between those who want black sections in the Labour Party and those who do not."

"If there is doubt over a job candidate, a minority of black Labour-appointed governors keeps the discussion open far into the night until the rest of the Labour group backs down. The headteacher is spending most of her time, as a consequence, on selection boards and looking over her shoulder to make sure she is pleasing a handful of governors."

In an interview in the latest issue of *The Governor*, the newsletter of the National Association of Governors and Managers, Mr Ramperand says his past two years as a governor of Quintin Kynaston was "pretty awful" and refers to "the abysmal practice of one-person shortlisting" which, he says, "favours the status quo" and effectively prevents black teachers from joining the staff.

He alleges that one staff governor said that a black candidate had been rejected because they were "unsuitable for the image of the school".

As there are only two staff governors this is being taken as a reference to the school's new head, Mrs Sheila Madge, although it could apply to her predecessor or another staff member.

Mrs Madge denied the remark at the weekend. She also denies that the Ilea investigation is directed at her. Mr Martin Prince, chairman of the governors, confirmed that there was an investigation into the allegations of racism.

● Conservative school governors, teachers and parents have criticized the Government's proposals for schools to opt out of local authority control. The Conservative Education Association warned schools that "the next move-Conservative government can, and probably will, sweep them away."

● Sir John Kingman, vice-chancellor of Bristol University, who is chairing the Government's special committee on English teaching, told the annual meeting of the university's ruling council that the Education Reform Bill would destroy forever the limited independence of universities.

● An opinion survey for the Institute for Economic Affairs shows that more than two-thirds of the population would be willing to take government grants for education or health if the grants allowed them to pay for services themselves.

● The Times newspaper has announced that it will be moving its offices from 1, Broad Street to 1, Broad Street, London W1A 1AA, from January 1, 1988. The move is part of a major restructuring of the paper's operations.

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# Law change could end dowdy register office marriages

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Plans to deregulate the civil marriage laws will bring an end to dowdy register office marriages. They will allow couples to marry anywhere in Britain by scrapping the residential qualification rules.

Historic houses and even council-owned castles could be offered to couples willing to pay more than the £16.50 licence fee for a civil ceremony and local authorities could lay on such "extras" as banquets and photographers in special wedding rooms.

The reforms are disclosed by Lord Skelmersdale, a junior social services minister, in a written answer to the Lords. Lady Elliot of Harwood, a senior Scottish Conservative, said many of the proposals will bring the English and Welsh marriage laws into line with the freer Scottish system.

An efficiency scrutiny into the registration of births, marriages and deaths recommended 47 changes to the system. Lord Skelmersdale has disclosed that most of the reforms will be enacted.

"The Government intends to legislate along the lines of the scrutiny proposals in the present Parliament should a suitable opportunity occur. Consultations have been opened with the local authorities, staff representatives and other interested parties to make the registration system more efficient, up-to-date and responsive to public demand."

Reforms which do not need a change in the law could be brought in soon. Legislation is expected to remove the present restrictions on where a wedding can be held and to improve the surroundings for the 50,000 civil ceremonies performed each year by allowing in "private enterprises".

The scrutiny complained that if a local authority wants to provide high quality wedding facilities for register office weddings, it is not allowed to recover the costs.

"Provided that in every area a standard marriage were available at the statutory fee, we recommend that local authorities should be free to provide extras at an additional fee."

The change in the law is likely to lift the requirement that a couple can marry only in the district where at least one of them is resident. That gave local authorities something of a "captive market" and led to couples manufacturing residential qualifications. The scrutiny also called for an end to the licence system where for an extra £16.50 a couple can marry after 48 hours. Instead, the 21-day notice rule should be waived in cases of urgency.

Both partners should be required to give notice of their marriage plans to iron out difficulties at the ceremony. Registrars reported that problems can occur if the first time they see both bride and groom is on the wedding day. The Government is also expected to do away with the two-stage paying of fees so that the £16.50 fee is all paid before the wedding day and no money has to change hands before the ceremony.

## Heart baby's death

### Mother talks of 'cruel fate'

By Craig Seton

The distraught mother of hole-in-the-heart baby David Barber said yesterday there should be no inquiry into his death.

David, aged eight weeks, died at Birmingham Children's Hospital early on Saturday, 10 days after an apparently successful heart operation that had been postponed five times.

David was due to go home

later that day and Diane Walker, his mother, spoke yesterday of the "cruel twist" that took her baby's life on that day but insisted that nobody was to blame.

Miss Walker, aged 28, shares a home at Newcastle-under-Lyme, with Mr Philip Barber, who was David's father. She said she was bitter that the operation had been postponed but added: "David did not die because he did not have the operation."

"We do not want any inquiries into his death. It will not bring him back. The doctors and the hospital did all they could."

Miss Walker described how on Friday night she had appeared on television and spoken of her delight that David would be home for Christmas.

She said: "I was so happy, but when I got home from the Wogan show, my mum said the hospital had been trying to get hold of me."

A blue piggy bank, given to her when she started a savings account for David a week after his birth, was the only thing in her sitting room to remind her of her son. She said: "I do not think people will forget him. I think he was there for a purpose. He brought to the attention of the whole country the situation that our hospitals are in. That gives me some comfort."

A post mortem examination disclosed that the baby's death was from natural causes.

Mr Babul Sethia, the consultant cardiac surgeon who carried out the operation, told *The Times* last night: "It may well be that we will never know why David died. As far as we were aware, the operation was a technical success and we may never determine the exact cause."

Surgeons at Birmingham Children's Hospital have carried out between 50 and 60 similar operations and another 30 children are thought to be awaiting heart surgery.



The grieving parents, Diane Walker and Philip Barber

## Italian master fools experts

By Lynda Mordin  
Arts Correspondent

A sixteenth-century Italian painting originally estimated at about £10,000 could fetch up to £200,000 at auction tomorrow.

The painting, "The Madonna and Child with St Lucy", was found to be by Annibale Carracci, the Bolognese artist, and not one of his pupils as had been thought. The reattribution, confirmed by several specialists, came after the publication of the catalogue by Phillips, the auctioneers, which now contains a correction.

Works by Carracci, an important artist of the period,

appear only rarely at auction and it is a considerable coup with which to start this week's sales of Old Masters at London auction houses.

Mr Brian Koetser, director of the picture department at Phillips, said he catalogued the work originally as being by Sisto Badalocchio, with an estimate of £8,000 to £12,000. "But now, quite frankly, we are looking in the region of £150,000 to £200,000."

The painting, which is being sold anonymously, is thought to have been completed in 1585. It is in good condition but in need of cleaning.

A painting which Sotheby's failed to recognize as a masterpiece is to be sold at auction

by Christie's with an estimate of £400,000 (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The portrait of Pope Clement VII by the Renaissance artist Sebastiano Del Piombo passed unnoticed through Sotheby's Chester some months ago, selling for £600 after being estimated at £300.

Mr Gregory Martin, Christie's old master specialist, said: "When I first saw it, it was very dirty. It was painted on slate and obviously neglected for many years."

The painting will be auctioned on Friday. Sotheby's said yesterday: "At this stage we haven't had a chance to investigate. These things do happen."

## Antiquities dazzle Monaco

Sotheby's started the Monaco season yesterday with its most successful antiquities sale to be held in the principality. It fetched 69 million francs, including a world record for a single item.

The record of 14.43 million francs was paid for the fantastic, fifth-century Ostrogoth gold and garnet cloisonné brooch in the stylized form of an eagle, part of the Domagnone Treasure, which was discovered in San Marino, Italy, in 1893, by Mr E. Labini, a New York dealer.

Other high prices were that of 8.3 million francs for a fifth-century bronze figure of Apollo, from the sanctuary of Artemis at Lousoi in Arcadia (estimated 800,000 to 1.2 million francs) and bought by a private collector.

This site was officially excavated by the Austrians in 1899 but the figure had been removed. Part of the inscription scored up its male back reads, "I am of Artemis the Gentle one."

The sale was interrupted eight times by French government officials standing up and announcing that items had been "pre-empted", or claimed for the government at the hammer price, as is allowed under the law in France.

## SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

The first was an Egyptian ivory figure of a young woman, circa 1560 BC, which was estimated at 400,000 to 600,000 francs and claimed by the Louvre at 3.1 million francs. The second to hot lot, a rare St Porchaire ewer, 1550-1560, was pre-empted at 2.9 million francs.

Christie's staged a successful sale in New York on Friday night when it achieved a world record of 1.0545 million dollars for a pastel drawing by Mary Cassatt, an Impressionist.

In the painting, "Mother Bathing Her Nude Baby", the artist contrasts skilfully the mother's diaphanous gown with the baby's bare flesh to achieve an effect of sensuous intimacy. It was estimated at between 600,000 dollars and 800,000 dollars, and was bought by the Berry-Hill Gallery, American art specialists, which bought three of the top four lots at the sale of American paintings, drawings and sculptures. There were also two world

records for Elie Nadelman, a sculptor who once claimed to have invented Cubism but whose fame has, until now, been eclipsed by Picasso and Braque.

A sculpture called "Tango" - a dancing couple carved from cherrywood, dated 1948 - fetched 2.86 million dollars from the Berry-Hill Gallery. The second, "Chief D'Orestra", a single robot-like figure also in cherrywood, sold for 1.43 million dollars to another New York gallery.

Nadelman, who was born in Poland in 1882, lived and worked in Paris during the early 1900s when he became such a darling with Bohemians such as Gertrude Stein and Bernard Berenson, that Henri Matisse, his rival sculptor, felt driven to erect a sign in his studio, "It is forbidden to speak of Nadelman here". His entire exhibition of 1911 was bought by Helena Rubinstein, the cosmetics manufacturer. The sale raised 15.4 million dollars, with 25 per cent unaided.

## 'Scope to cut down infant mortality'

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Deaths among infants under a year old are higher than in other European countries, according to a government study. It says there is scope to reduce the number of infant deaths.

Deaths from respiratory disease are also higher than other parts of Europe.

The study of long term population trends by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys predicts a rising demand for medical and social services because people are living longer.

The study shows the population of Britain has been static for more than 10 years.

At ages above 55, the British mortality rates are said to be relatively high for a developed country. But among the older age groups the deaths from heart disease have fallen.

Death rates for men from lung cancer have declined recently between the ages of 65 and 74 but those for women have continued to increase. A higher proportion of women reaching pensionable age have been smokers.

The highest birth rate is among wives of manual workers. In women over 25 fertility is highest among wives of non-manual workers, with the first child born increasingly at 30 or over.

The report says in the 20 years up to 1984, the proportion of births outside marriage more than doubled. It records a sharp increase in the past five years and says that one birth in five is now illegitimate.

The report says that more women will choose not to have any children, a relatively smaller number will choose to have only one child and that there will be a concentration on the two-child family.

Family poverty would trouble if mothers did not go out to work, a report published today by the Family Policy Studies Centre states. In more than half of all married couples, both husband and wife work.

## Francome takes a break



John Francome with his wife, Miriam, at Lambourn. "It's time for a well earned holiday"

Report and photograph by Stephen Markeson

John Francome, the former National Hunt jockey who failed to gain planning permission for a training establishment, has given up training racehorses temporarily.

Mr Francome, aged 34, who won the steeplechase championship seven times, set himself up as a trainer at "Windy Hollow" Lambourn, Berkshire.

He bought a 250-acre farm near by, to turn into a new training yard and then sold "Windy Hollow" to Miss Avery Whitfield, aged 32, who also intended to train racehorses. Her application was rejected and she will now become assistant to Mr Merrick Francis, the trainer and son of the author, Dick Francis.

Mr Francome moved to a cottage a couple of miles away, but still has the new farm. "We are still going ahead with an appeal and we should hear by August", he said. "If the outcome is successful, it's back to training."

Asked what he would do if the appeal failed, Mr Francome said defiantly: "I am not going to look elsewhere. I made my mind up that I want to train here in Lambourn. I am very lucky to have other strings to my bow and can wait for the appeal."

"If we get turned down again, we will build a

farmhouse on the land and then think again. I want to expand and have my own gallops."

Sitting in his newly acquired cottage, with his wife, Miriam, and his dog, Bruin, at his side, Mr Francome said of his enforced leave from training: "I'm looking forward to our year off. Miriam and I will be able to do the things we always wanted but couldn't because we had horses to look after. We are having a holiday together for the first time in more than two years. I am taking Miriam to Mauritius for a couple of weeks. We both deserve the break."

The Francomes will be back in Lambourn for Christmas. "This will be the first Christmas I haven't had to get up and ride out on Christmas Day, and then ride at a Boxing Day meeting", Mr Francome said.

"I think Miriam will be keen for me to start training again, though", he said. "She likes meeting all the owners and being involved. She is without a doubt my greatest asset. A lot of my owners came to me because of Miriam, you know."

Mr Francome said he had farmed out some of his horses to different trainers and sold the rest. "I've been riding out for Fred Winter and still keep very much in touch with the game."

## Portfolio Gold Winner is off to the battlefield

A director who won £8,000 in Portfolio Gold is to use the money to visit the battle-grounds of the American Civil War.

"I could have been boring and paid off the mortgage, but I wanted to do something different", Dr Graham Finney, aged 48, of Worplesdon, Surrey, said. "The trip has been an ambition for three years."

Dr Finney, who won the Portfolio Gold weekly payout, will make the visit next year with his wife, Beryl.

Another competition winner heading across the Atlantic is Mr Edmund Ashworth, a retired engineer aged 85, of St Anne's on Sea, near Blackpool, who won a fifth share in Saturday's £12,000 prize. He will visit his son in Kansas. Mr Frank Chrystal, aged 57, a pharmaceutical marketing manager of Canterbury, Kent, who also won a fifth of the Saturday prize, hopes to put some of the money towards his daughter's wedding next year.

The three other winners were Patricia Berry, of Diden, Southampton, Mr Gordon Head, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Mr E S Gordon, from South Wirral.

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Dr Finney: fulfilling an ambition

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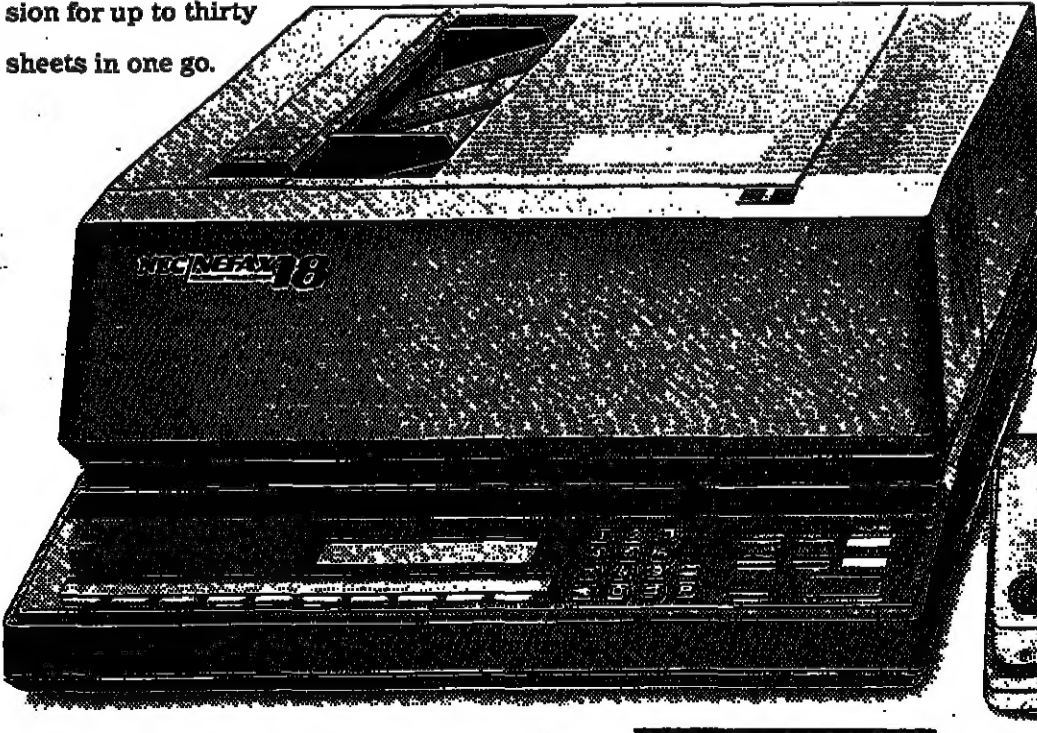
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# Christmas breath test blitz on motorists launched

By Daniel Ward  
Motor Industry Correspondent

Motorists involved in road accidents and drivers stopped for offences such as speeding will be breath tested in a Christmas drink-driving clampdown.

The campaign will be carried out in all counties in the South-west and in the West Midlands and Hertfordshire.

The police in Leicester, Nottingham and Derby insist already that all motorists stopped or involved in an accident are breath tested. The policy has been adopted throughout Scotland in the past 18 months.

The police in Fife reacted last October to a big rise in fatal road accidents by breath testing all motorists involved in traffic offences. Provisional casualty figures were the lowest for five years.

More than 20 per cent of drivers involved in an accident in Fife last year failed a breath test. Scottish police chiefs will consider this week whether to implement a series

P & O European Ferries (formerly Townsend Thoresen) is seeking to clamp down on alcohol consumption by crew members on its cross-Channel ferries.

Staff who may spend several days at sea in one period are allowed to drink during rest periods.

However, in a series of proposals to the trade unions on Friday, P & O showed concern about the level of drinking.

The company recognises

of tough new drink-drive measures after a review of random testing, enforcement and existing legally permitted blood alcohol levels.

The Sussex police will repeat their use of road blocks to curb drink driving. The police will set up as many road blocks as possible this month. Checks will be carried out in the afternoon and early evening in the week before Christmas.

A campaign last September in which the Sussex police set up road blocks on busy roads three times a day, particularly

that, for those who stay on board for an extended period, consumption of alcohol in moderation is a relaxation.

"What we cannot accept is that any seafarer at any time on board the vessel is unable to carry out his/her emergency duties properly because of over-indulgence in alcohol."

It is thought that the company will seek a limit on the amount of alcohol which crew members can drink in their rest periods.

In the late evening, saw 160 people fail a breath test. The campaign was repeated last month and 70 motorists were prosecuted. Officers said that the effect on accidents had been encouraging.

The Christmas drive comes after Home Office figures showed that the number of breath tests carried out officially significantly underestimated the number of motorists who were breath tested and subsequently prosecuted.

Last year, 302,700 drivers were breath tested in England

and Wales and 89,000 were prosecuted.

The Home Office confirmed that poor police reporting had resulted in the number of positive tests being understated by 15 per cent, or 16,000. "There is a big discrepancy in the figures and a great shortfall in the number of tests reported."

The police in the West Midlands prosecuted 5,900 motorists last year for drink-driving offences. However, Home Office figures for the region show that only 3,748 breath tests were carried out, of which 39 per cent were positive.

Chief Supt Bob Smalley, head of the West Midlands traffic division, said: "We have acknowledged to the Home Office that we have not been good at sending our returns in."

The official Home Office figures show that the number of breath tests increased from 250,300 in 1985 to 303,000 last year. However the discrepancy in the statistics suggests that the number is rising even faster.

The Home Office has simplified a form which has to be completed by police officers after carrying out breath tests.

Under traffic legislation, the police can stop cars at random and request that motorists take a breath test if they suspect that they have been drinking.

The police are also supporting moves to make motorists aware of the hazards of drinking and driving throughout the year.

Chief Supt Roger Wardle, head of the Thames Valley police traffic division, said: "At Christmas, a lot of people are tempted to drink and then drive who wouldn't be at other times of the year."

## Portrait of enterprise



Mr Jeff Paul Levy, aged 26, from north London, and the portrait of Mrs Margaret Thatcher he painted to launch his career as an artist under the Government's Enterprise Allowance scheme. The picture is to be sold for charity by Sotheby's (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

## Shah and Wapping 'set trend for press'

By Michael Hornsall

The ramshackle edifice of Fleet Street labour relations has been demolished by Mr Eddie Shah and Mr Rupert Murdoch, according to the Press Council report for 1986 published today.

An independent article in the report says that before the launch of Today by Mr Shah and the move of News International to Wapping, east London, the industrial strength of the print unions had seemed impregnable.

The complacency of the print chapels in the circumstances proved an important element in their defeat by the two publishers.

"Moreover, and crucially, because the boycott of modern systems had been so successful and long-lasting, by the early 1980s there was a whole alternative chain of newspaper production waiting to be used, and one, moreover, not reliant on the sort of hard-earned nineteenth century industrial skills represented by the individual chapels", the report says.

"Older established publishers could take advantage of the new freedoms without having to pay the price of the battles conducted by Messrs Shah and Murdoch on their behalf."

As an associated development practically every national newspaper previously printed in central London, especially in Fleet Street, announced plans to move out to new printing plants in London's former docklands which will become the industry's focal point by the end of the decade.

The Press and The People (Press Council, 1, Salisbury Square, London, EC4; £8.50 plus 55p postage).

## Street drinks ban sought

By Craig Seton

Coventry is seeking to become the first local authority to ban the drinking of alcohol in the street in an attempt to curb drink-related crime in the city centre.

The ban would be enforced by a new by-law drawn up by the city which is awaiting Home Office approval.

The ban, backed by a £100 fine for offenders, would apply to public open spaces in an area enclosed by the city centre inner ring road and to public parks.

It is one of the main features

of a new public-private sector plan to prevent rising drunkenness and drink-related offences in Coventry's compact city centre, where there are more than 70 licensed premises.

The city has been selected as a pilot project by the Home Office, which wants to assess its potential application in other large towns and cities.

Coventry figures show that drink was a factor in 31 per cent of offences committed by 633 people arrested for disorder, assaults, robberies,

criminal damage and other offences in the city centre between July and September.

The largest percentage of those under the influence of drink were aged 25 and over.

Mr Rod Drew, aged 51, manager of Boots in Coventry, is the instigator of the alcohol-related crime project. He decided that the private and public sector should get together to fight drunkenness and hooliganism after a large number of shop windows in the city centre were smashed several Christmas eves ago.

## Police fear knife powers too weak

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

Police representatives are seeking talks with the Home Office over plans for the control of knives, because they fear the new legislation will be ineffective unless search powers are changed.

Controls to halt the alarming growth in the use of knives, especially by the young, were announced by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, in October.

Police hoped this would include a relaxation on the guidelines for carrying out street searches. But officers believe they will still be bound by the powers of search set out in codes of practice in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

The Act allows searches only if the power of suspicion is equal to the power of suspicion needed for an arrest.

If the Government uses the same standard in searches for knives Mr Michael Bennett,

chairman of the Police Federation's Metropolitan Police branch, believes the legislation will fail.

He said that the Act required police to provide a written report of a search which is available to the suspect. If the reasons for the search are wrong, policemen face disciplinary proceedings.

Scotland Yard's senior officers are to hold talks with the Home Office about the problems of introducing inspections of the Metropolitan Police by the team of officials who check provincial forces. The Yard fears there could be embarrassing policy disputes.

The Complaints Investigation Bureau at Scotland Yard is studying a report on allegations by a journalist, Mr Andrew Jennings, that he was put under surveillance by London police while researching a Granada Television World in Action programme on police corruption.

## Motorway repairs

## Early finish bonus for roads pays off

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Incentives offered by the Department of Transport to contractors who complete main roadworks ahead of schedule are starting to yield substantial results.

It is estimated that in 1986-87 they saved £14 million and cut the number of days on which motorists would otherwise have experienced delays by 830.

Lane rental contracts, under which contractors receive a bonus for finishing work early, or incur a rental charge if they over-run, were first used in 1984.

The department estimated that 23 lane rental contracts in 1986-87 were completed on average 33 per cent faster than would be expected with conventional contracts.

Motorway roadworks until next Monday:

### London and South-east

M1 London: lane closures near jn 4 southbound (Edgware).

M4 London: lane closures on eastbound exit slip at jn 4 (Heathrow).

M11 Essex: southbound lane closures between jns 5 and 4 (Loughton/North Circular Road); off peak lane closures and speed restrictions at jn 8 (Stansted airport); contraflow between jns 8 and 10 (Bishops Cleeve/Dunford).

M275 Hampshire: flyover construction between the M27 and Rudmere roundabout.

M3 Hampshire: contraflow and slip road restrictions between jns 9 and 7 (Winchester/Basingstoke).

M40 Buckinghamshire: lane closures eastbound between jns 4 and 2 (High Wycombe/Beaconsfield) from 9.30am until 4pm.

### Midlands

M1 Leicestershire: contraflow between jns 24 and 25 (A6/Northingham).

M5 Hereford/Worcester: contraflow between jns 5 and 6 (Bromsgrove/Worcester north); southbound entry slip at jn 6

closed; northbound traffic at jn 6 reduced to a single lane; lane restrictions and overnight closures between jns 5 and 7 (Bromsgrove/Worcester south).

M5 W Midlands: lane closures between jns 1 and 2 (West Bromwich/Birmingham west); southbound entry slip at jn 1 and northbound entry slip at jn 2 closed.

### North

M61 Greater Manchester: jn 14 (Worsley interchange), outside lane closures in both directions single lane only southbound from the Kearsley spur to the M62 westbound will cause peak morning delays.

M62 W Yorkshire: contraflow between jns 25 and 26 (A644 Bradford/M606 Bradford).

M63 Greater Manchester: restrictions for widening of Barton Bridge; construction of M63 flyover at Portwood roundabout, Stockport, roadwidth reduced to two lanes.

M1 W Yorkshire: lane restrictions at jn 36 (A61 Barnsley); contraflow between jns 39 and 40 (Wakefield/Dewsbury); slip road closures at jn 40.

### Wales and West

M4 Glamorgan: one lane closed westbound and two lanes closed eastbound at jn 36 (A4061 Bridgend).

M4 W Glamorgan: lane closures eastbound at jn 45 (A4067).

M5 Somerset: contraflow between jns 23 and 25 (A38/Taunton) and lane closures northbound at jn 26 (Wellsington) and between jns 27 and 28 (Tiverton/Cullompton).

### Scotland

M8 Lathian: outside lane closed eastbound at jn 3 and no access from A899 at Livingston.

M8 Strathclyde: outside lane closed in both directions between jns 27 and 29 (Renfrew/Paisley).

M9 Central region: outside lane closures from jn 9 to 10 (A872/Stirling).

M90 Fife: only one lane open on both carriageways at jn 1 (Admiralty flyover) near the Firth of Forth.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch

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# Priest's trees bring hope to famine town

From Paul Valley  
Mekkele, Ethiopia

Father Angelo Regazzo vowed two years ago that he would plant one tree for every person who died in the Ethiopian famine camp at Mekkele, where 30,000 people succumbed to starvation or disease.

He did not stop at 30,000, but planted 200,000. Now the last sloping plain of bare sand, where 120,000 people once gathered in the desperate hope of receiving foreign food aid, is covered in a burgeoning green which stretches up the steep hills in the distance.

The Italian priest, distinctly unclerical in his jeans and baseball cap, gazed on it with evident pleasure and recalled the words of the prophet Isaiah: "On this mountain He will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples and the shroud, unwrapping all nations." Father Angelo plans to carry on until he has planted one million — the number of people which it is said in Ethiopia died in the 1984/85 famine.

What started out as a hobby for the Superior of the Mekkele house of the Salesian order of priests and brothers has developed into an afforestation project. Not only does it employ 100 local families planting, watering and nurturing, but it has restored dignity to this isolated little town which is often cut off from the outside world by fighting between government forces and guerrillas.

"At first we had to employ



A salute for Bob Geldof as he inspects famine relief work in Mekkele, Ethiopia, on his visit to see how the crisis is developing (Photograph: Brian Aris).

many guards for the trees — five men for every kilometre — to make sure that people did not cut them for fire or break twigs off to clean their teeth. Respect for trees is not deep in their culture, which is part of the reason the area is so bare," he said.

"Gradually we have been able to reduce the number of guards as people have become

educated in the need for trees. Trees are a sign of life here in this place of death.

"Before long, people will be able to harvest firewood and still maintain the overall programme of expanding tree cover. We will have a forest which will raise the humidity of the air and bring the clouds which carry rain."

Father Angelo has developed two nurseries containing some 4,000 seedlings. When watered, they grow rapidly in the warm highland sunshine. Planting out takes place almost every day.

Now the dusty streets of Mekkele are becoming tree-lined avenues. Fast-growing eucalyptus are already six feet high. There are also acacia,

guava and the drought-resistant black pepper trees. He is experimenting successfully with apple, lemon, pomegranate, mango, pawpaw and prickly pears.

But a spectre hangs over the newly-verdant town. Because of the war, food is not getting through in anything like the required amount. When stocks run out, people will

once again leave the surrounding villages and trek to Mekkele, where the international airlift holds out the modest promise of a little food.

When the refugee camps form, Father Angelo knows that his infant forest and two years of patient effort will go for firewood in a matter of weeks.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Ershad dissolves his Parliament

Dhaka (Reuters) — President Ershad of Bangladesh, facing mounting protests against his rule, dissolved Parliament yesterday, state television announced in a terse late-night broadcast. The decision was taken "in accordance" with the Constitution. Ruling Jatiya Party sources had said a dissolution might be followed by elections.

An Ershad aide said that Parliament had been dissolved after a three-hour Cabinet meeting. Dissolution was imminent after 10 members of the fundamentalist Jama'at Islami party and two independents resigned last week. The biggest opposition party, the Awami League, also agreed in principle to resign, but announced on Saturday it was delaying the move until its leader, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, was freed from house arrest.

Editorial: Mr Shamsur Rahman, chief editor of the state-run Bengali-language daily *Dainik Bangla*, resigned in protest against press curbs imposed under the state of emergency orders last week.

### Ship fire kills 23

Madrid — A fire on board a Chinese-manned merchant ship caused one of the worst maritime disasters in the history of north-west Spain's "Death Coast" with the loss of 23 lives, naval authorities said in Corunna yesterday (Harry Debelius writes).

Fire broke out on Saturday on board the Panama-registered *Cason* 25 miles off the coast near Finiserra.

Only eight of the 31 crew from China and Hong Kong survived. The bodies of the 23 others were recovered. Heavy seas and high winds complicated the rescue.

### Strike call in Haiti

Port-au-Prince — All four leading opposition politicians in Haiti have joined with the four main trade unions in calling for a general strike today in protest at the violence which forced the postponement of general elections eight days ago (Alan Tomlinson writes).

As Haitians stocked up with food and petrol the Roman Catholic church accused the Army of complicity in the anti-election violence. Defenceless Haitians were the victims of "generalized slaughter" and "organized terror", the Episcopal Conference said.

### Iran hits tankers

Bahrain (Reuters) — A Singapore-flagged tanker, the 85,129-tonne *Norman Atlantic*, was burning fiercely after being attacked yesterday by an Iranian gunboat. The tanker was hit by rocket-propelled grenades off the coast of Oman hours after an Iranian gunboat had attacked a Danish-flagged tanker, *Estelle Maersk*, killing one crewman.

● DUBAI: Iraqi planes bombed a Saudi Arabian island two days ago, causing several casualties. Shipping sources said the island was mistaken for an Iranian gunboat base.

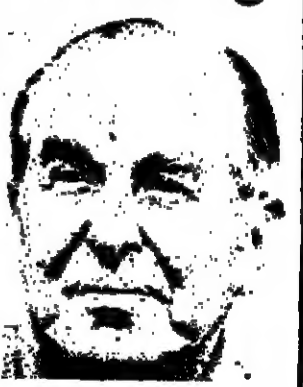
### Pact gets cool reply

Bangkok — China and Thailand have given a lukewarm response to last week's peace talks in France between warring factions in Cambodia, while Mr Son Sann, a resistance leader, urged Cambodians to go on fighting the occupying Vietnamese (Neil Kelly writes).

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that China respected efforts by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to find a settlement, but officials were disturbed that there was no more emphasis on a Vietnamese withdrawal. Leading article, page 17

### Queen to see Herzog

Jerusalem (Reuters) — President Herzog of Israel (right) will meet the Queen and Mrs Thatcher on Thursday, his office announced here yesterday. He will also attend Jewish community festivities marking Israel's 40th anniversary and the 70th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which pledged a Jewish national home in Palestine. Mr Herzog was a British Army intelligence officer during the Second World War.



## The Angolan conflict

### Botha's men leave as Cubans arrive

From Michael Hoxasby, Johannesburg

South African troops have begun to withdraw from southern Angola, the chief of the South African Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys, announced at the weekend.

The announcement came only a day after the Mozambique news agency, *Alina*, reported the "recent arrival in the Angolan capital of a considerable number of fresh Cuban troops".

General Geldenhuys said he could not disclose details of the withdrawal operation, which was being conducted in the context of an "on-going conflict situation in the area", as to do so would jeopardize the safety of his troops.

He recalled that South Africa, in a debate in the United Nations Security Council, had recently declared its willingness to pull its troops out of southern Angola if its security interests were assured or if all

other foreign forces were withdrawn as well.

The second condition has self-evidently not been met, so General Geldenhuys's statement would appear to reflect confidence in Pretoria that Cuban and Angolan government forces no longer pose a serious threat to South Africa's ally, Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement.

Three weeks ago President Botha's Government admitted publicly for the first time that it had given direct military assistance to Unita, and had clashed with Cuban and Soviet forces backing the Angolans.

*Alina* said a government source in Luanda had disclosed that a Cuban division was on its way to southern Angola. A senior Cuban officer, General Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez, has arrived in Angola to assume command of Cuban forces.

### Fiji will ask for return to Commonwealth

From A Correspondent, Suva

Fiji is expected to make an early application for readmission to the Commonwealth following its return to civilian rule after six months of a military regime.

Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, leader of the coups in May and September, has stepped down as the island nation's military strongman.

He issued his final decree as head of the two-month-old republican Government at the weekend with the appointment of the former Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, as Fiji's first President.

The new President named Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as Prime Minister — the position he held for Fiji's 16th years of independence from Britain until his defeat at the polls last April. Ratu Ganilau said he had agreed to become Presi-

dent after inspecting a draft of a new constitution and being satisfied that it was fair to all races in Fiji, while protecting ethnic Fijian rights.

Fiji forfeited its Commonwealth membership when Brigadier Rabuka proclaimed a republic on October 7. Both Brigadier Rabuka and Ratu Ganilau are anxious to restore Fiji's links with the Commonwealth and the Crown.

But it only takes one Commonwealth member to "blackball" a membership application, and until now India has been thought certain to say no.

Meanwhile, Ratu Mara this week is expected to name a Cabinet of about 10 members — and to exclude the council's eight militant Fijian Tautai members. Political sources say an election will not be held for at least 15 months.



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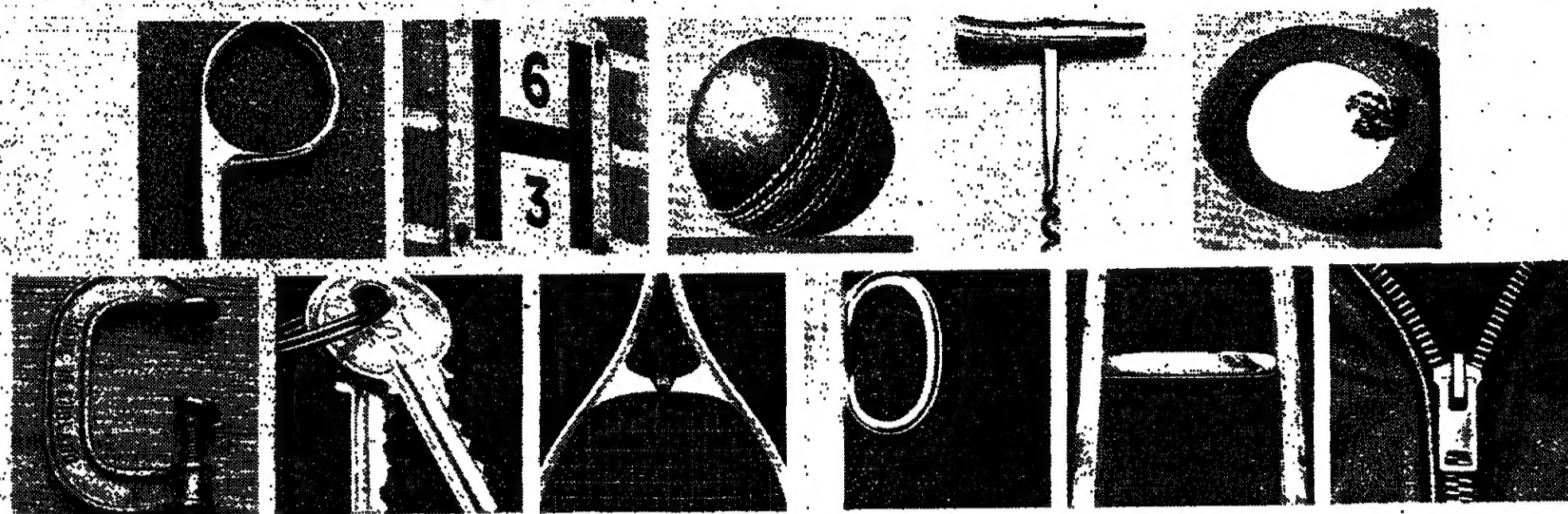
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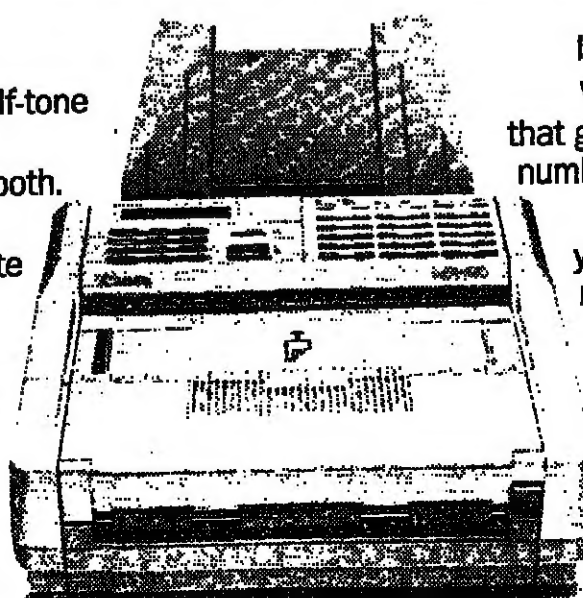
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## REGIONAL ISSUES

## Progress vital on Afghan war

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Afghanistan heads the list of regional issues President Reagan wants to take up with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, and progress in speeding a Soviet withdrawal is seen here as essential in gaining public support for the arms control treaty. Indeed, Senate Democrats specifically linked the two at the weekend, saying ratification of the treaty would be difficult if an end to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was not in sight.

However, the Gulf and the Middle East are also high on the American agenda.

Mr Reagan wants Mr Gorbachov to commit the Soviet Union to supporting a mandatory United Nations Security Council arms embargo against Iran because of its failure to heed the ceasefire resolution. The Russians, however, have refused to join the West in this, and are increasingly criticising the Western naval presence in the Gulf.

The US originally justified its re-flagging of Kuwait ships as a move to prevent the Soviet Union establishing a permanent presence in the Gulf. Since then, however, Washington has emphasized that Iran, not the Soviet Union, is the main threat to Western shipping, and has appealed to Moscow to co-operate in trying to end the Gulf War.

But Soviet diplomacy has taken advantage of Iranian belligerence to the West to improve its awkward relations with Tehran. The Russians now call for a removal of all foreign forces in the Gulf, and are positioning themselves to play the role of peacemaker and intermediary.

Moscow is also mending its fences with all parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict, while distancing itself from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The US has backed moderate Arabs' call for a preliminary international conference in which the Soviet Union would play a role, but the sharp division within the Israeli Government has made progress impossible.

American sources were quoted here yesterday as saying the US had urged Israel to refrain from retaliating during the summit for a Palestinian hang-glider raid in which six Israeli soldiers were killed.

The President will also press the Soviet leader to end Soviet military support for Nicaragua and to withdraw Soviet advisers. Furthermore, he will urge the removal of Soviet and Cuban troops and advisers from Angola.

Discussion here is likely to be sharp; Mr Reagan is convinced that Sandinista insurgency is linked to Moscow's attempt to establish a bridgehead on the American mainland; Mr Gorbachov said in his television interview last week that allegations that Nicaragua posed a threat to the US could not be taken seriously.

Most progress is expected to be made on Afghanistan, though both sides are still far apart. Mr Reagan has said he will ask Mr Gorbachov to set a definite date for the Soviet pull-out. However, last week he categorically ruled out any US guarantee not to supply the rebels with arms during a Soviet withdrawal, and officials have made it clear that the US will not accept the Soviet notion of an Afghan coalition government dominated by Communists.

## Agenda for the summit

This week's Washington talks between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov will be their third summit but the first to produce a substantive treaty. When the ink is dry discussions will focus on four main areas:

- **Arms control:** Seeking 50 per cent cuts in strategic nuclear weapons and agreement on Star Wars
- **Regional issues:** Top on the list will be the war in Afghanistan, Central America and the Gulf War
- **Human rights:** The treatment of dissidents in the Soviet Union and the poor and homeless in the US
- **Bilateral ties:** Ending the dispute over new embassies in each other's capitals and technology transfers

## STAR WARS

## Superpowers do battle over politics of SDI

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative has come a long way since his famous speech in March, 1983. Star Wars, as the SDI programme has come to be known, is no longer a fanciful vision. Laboratory research is developing towards real hardware, and it has grown into the biggest and most controversial item in the Pentagon budget.

But, above all, the whole concept of strategic defence has created a new political battleground between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan has repeatedly said — most recently during a visit to a plant in Denver, Colorado, engaged in Star Wars research — that the project would not be used as a bargaining chip with Moscow to gain a treaty on reducing strategic range missiles (Start).

SDI is the cornerstone of his security strategy for the 1990s and beyond. But the politics of the programme has moved on. Moscow has changed its tactics from full frontal assault, characterized by a "No to Star Wars" stance, to a much more flexible position.

Last week Mr Mikhail Gorbachov admitted what the US Central Intelligence Agency has been saying for years: the Soviet Union was engaged in similar research. It was the latest astute manoeuvre to put Star Wars — and the Soviet "Red Shield" — as Mr Reagan calls it — into a different political framework.

Mrs Thatcher clearly supports what she would describe as a new "reality" on SDI — not a compromise — with her personal proposal, revealed this weekend, for a timetable of research and a commitment to stay within the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty for a

specified period between seven and 10 years.

Earlier this year Moscow proposed that the two sides agree on a list of space-based devices which would be prohibited if they exceeded certain performance parameters. The proposal was the first real sign that the Soviet Union was beginning to soften its line on Star Wars.

A number of senior officials in the Reagan Administration, including it is reported, Admiral William Crowe, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, believe it may be possible to negotiate limits on testing without crippling the research project.

Congress, after all, has already curbed the research by limiting funds, currently \$3.2 billion (£1.8 billion) a year. They argue that a US-Soviet agreement on permitted tests would help to win new supporters in Congress, thus safeguarding future funding, and also clear the way for a Start treaty.

But this year has been crucial for President Reagan's project. Significant progress has been made in focusing on the most promising areas of research.

Kinetic-energy "hit-to-kill" weapons — the space-based "Smart Rocks" which would destroy incoming ballistic missiles by force of impact — have emerged as the most likely and least expensive of the technologies available for a strategic defence system. The Soviet side also has had research programmes under way on kinetic-energy weapons, mainly at its Moscow laboratories.

The concept is straightforward. When intercontinental ballistic missiles

(ICBMs) are travelling at 17,500 mph, even a small rock or an ice cube placed in their path would destroy them on impact.

The Soviet Union puts up to 10 very heavy warheads on its ICBMs, so to lighten the load the outer casings of the missiles themselves are built of only thin material, making it vulnerable.

There has been significant progress in kinetic-weapons technology. They have been called flying tomato cans because of their shape. Weigh-

Bonn — Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, West Germany's Foreign Minister, urged the US Congress yesterday to ratify quickly the superpower arms pact due to be signed in Washington (Reuter reports).

He said he hoped this week's summit between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, would lead to substantial progress in efforts to achieve an agreement on halving the strategic nuclear arsenals. "That would make it possible for such an agreement to be signed at another American-Soviet summit meeting in Moscow in the first half of 1988," he said.

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ing 40lb or less, these interceptors could be based on satellites. Up to 300 platforms would be needed in low Earth orbit and would be projected, at six miles per second, at ICBMs during their initial boost phase before the warheads have been launched.

The Americans are hoping to flight-test two kinetic en-

ergy weapon concepts in 1989-90, and work is also under way to decide on the kind of needed to guide the interceptors to their targets. If the US decided to go ahead with the strategic defence system — the deadline for a decision is still 1992 — it is claimed that the kinetic-energy weapons could be deployed by the middle to late 1990s.

Research into the second generation of so-called exotic systems, including lasers and particle beams, has also continued, although their future is less certain because of budget restraints.

One of the most expensive and controversial experiments is due to be carried out in about three years' time. In the secret test, codenamed Zenith Star, a hydrogen fluoride chemical laser, now under construction at a site in California, will be launched into space, encased in a satellite with a lightweight movable mirror.

The laser beam, generated by chemical reaction, would be aimed at the mirror and directed to a target.

The Soviet Union, which is estimated to be spending more than \$2 billion a year on Star Wars research, has already built a prototype laser system capable of damaging sensors on satellites in low orbit, at their plant at Sary Shagan.

The headline US supporters of Star Wars fear that the Zenith Star project could be the first victim of a compromise deal restricting space-based tests if a new understanding is reached between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov at the summit.



## HUMAN RIGHTS

## US speaks for 'unseen guests'

From Charles Bremner, Washington

Since the mid-1970s and the Helsinki European security conference, human rights have been accepted, reluctantly, by the Russians as a topic for discussion with the Americans.

US Presidents have long been hampered in their dealings with the Kremlin by domestic political pressure to link the way the Russians treat their citizens with progress on arms treaties and trade.

President Reagan has refused to subordinate the INF arms agreement to the rights issue, but he has made clear over the past few days that, despite the releases of political and religious prisoners and an increase in Jewish emigration this year, he intends to press Mr Mikhail Gorbachov hard on the topic.

"In my meetings, I know that sitting next to me will be unseen guests — men and women whose only hope is that they're not forgotten here in the West," he said on Friday.

The day before, the President met two American wives of Soviet citizens and three other Americans whose marriages to Russians are being blocked.

The White House says Mr Reagan will tell the Soviet leader that the United States is dissatisfied with its performance and believes that it is still not complying with the Helsinki accords of 1975.

As they do at every high-level meeting, the Americans will present a list of divided families and other individual cases. Mr Reagan will also urge Mr Gorbachov to guarantee freedom of movement to his citizens, as well as freedom of religion and freedom of information.

"We will press the Soviet Government to release all remaining political and religious prisoners... We similarly call upon the USSR to cease immediately the abhorrent practice of committing sane persons who dissent with the Government to psychiatric asylums for treatment," the White House said.

A senior State Department official said that the Americans also planned to protest vigorously over the manhandling of US reporters yesterday at a demonstration by would-be Jewish emigrants.

Mr Gorbachov will give as good as he gets. After years of defensiveness, the Kremlin has, under Mr Gorbachov, taken the offensive approach and focused on alleged American abuses.

These usually cover "social" and "economic" violations, such as unemployment, homelessness and costly medical care.

But the Russians have also dwelt on cases involving repression of "dissidents" such as Leonid Peltier, an imprisoned Indian leader. The bombing by police of a house held by the "Move" group of extremists in Philadelphia two years ago is also cited by the Soviet media as a human rights abuse.

In his long television interview last week, Mr Gorbachov's replies on human rights questions were the least convincing.

Among his arguments, he said the US had deliberately instigated a Jewish "brain drain" to damage the Soviet Union, and that it was Western interference inside East Germany that had forced the Communists to build the Berlin Wall.



Reaching out for peace: Parallel demonstrations were held in Moscow, left, and Washington at the weekend supporting the Reagan-Gorbachov summit. In Moscow, a human chain linked the Supreme Soviet with the US Embassy, while in the American capital a line of demonstrators formed "a bridge of peace" between the White House and the Soviet Embassy.

## BILATERAL TIES

## Embassies dispute likely to be raised

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Burgeoning bilateral relations between the United States and the Soviet Union are the least contentious issue on the summit agenda. But both sides will probably focus on one expensive and embarrassing row over the past year — the construction of new embassies in each other's capitals.

The US has discovered that its new Chancery is riddled with KGB listening devices and is proposing, at considerable cost, to tear down and rebuild the top floors of the complex.

The Russians have not been allowed to occupy their new embassy here, and there is growing concern that its high listening spot. Congress last week compromised in its demand for the Russians to be

evicted, saying it would accept whatever decision President Reagan came to after his discussions.

The Soviet Union may also raise questions of technology exports and trade barriers linked to human rights performance.

Moscow has frequently complained about arbitrary US controls, and Washington has bitterly criticized Soviet industrial espionage and attempts to evade high-technology embargoes — such as the recent scandal of the milling equipment for quiet submarine engines bought from a Toshiba subsidiary.

The US is pleased with the development of cultural relations and people-to-people exchanges, which have expanded substantially.

By signing the new arms treaty with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, President Reagan has lost his senses, sold out to the Russians and is plunging headlong into another Munich for the sake of "peace in our time".

That is the view being forcefully voiced on the eve of the summit by a broad coalition of conservatives, from former Administration officials to ultra-right eccentrics, who have abandoned the man they long regarded as their own.

Along with Jewish campaigners and Ukrainian and Baltic nationalists, they are determined to alert the public to what they see as the dangers of appeasing the Kremlin.

Over the weekend, as television and the press gave themselves over to summit-fever, the anger and frustration of the conservatives reached a peak.

They were, in particular, incensed at the President's dismissal of them

as misguided and ignorant in his television interview on Thursday.

"It is tragic that we have a President who has made himself nothing more than an instrument of Soviet propaganda," said Mr Richard Viguerie, a leading conservative political organizer. "We feel alienated, abandoned and rejected by the President."

Senator Robert Dole, the Repub-

● **The President has become an instrument of Soviet propaganda** ●

lican presidential contender, demanded a meeting with the President late on Friday to convey the anger of senators who were appalled by his television remarks.

Mr Dole said he resented the President's words and told him that support for the INF arms treaty, which many Republican senators believe was concluded in haste, "is

not a test of loyalty to you or the party as some have tried to portray it".

Senator Jesse Helms, the most vocal conservative in Congress, said: "What I'm going to do is pull out some of the President's own speeches on arms control and read them back to him." Congressmen also warned the President that his strong language would make it harder to gather the votes necessary to ratify the treaty.

The conservative groups have been working hard to attract the attention of the thousands of reporters who have gathered in Washington, deluging them with analyses and articles warning of Soviet treachery.

The critics of the accord include Mr Richard Perle, the former Assistant Defence Secretary who resigned this year, and Mr Frank Gaffney, who served as his deputy.

Democratic politicians have seized on the disarray among the

Republicans, which has cast Mr Reagan suddenly in the role of conciliatory moderate. Mr Michael Dukakis, one of the presidential contenders, said the Republicans were "mired in the ideological battles of the 1950s. Those folks are just stuck in the past".

The US secret service and the contingent of 130 KGB men who have come for the summit have

● **The Republicans are mired in ideological battles of the 1950s** ●

elaborate plans for handling any attempts to disrupt the summit ceremonies by ultra-conservative or other anti-Soviet protesters.

The FBI has also circulated photographs of about 400 possible troublemakers and would-be assassins to all security officers, so they can be detained on sight.

Although the main Jewish demon-

stration was staged yesterday, hard-line members of the Jewish Defence League and Ukrainian nationalists have been calling for protests during Mr Gorbachov's outings in central Washington.

The Jewish Defence League has staged violent attacks on Soviet personnel in New York in recent years and several of its leaders are in jail.

Among other visible protests, the coalition of conservative groups is driving a 13 ft high wooden Trojan horse to Washington from New England.

The White House is probably regretting its handling of one demonstration over the weekend. A group of children from various countries tried to present a big bunch of roses at the White House gate. The children left them and police threw them into a rubbish bin.

The Soviet Deputy Ambassador met the children when they visited the mission and gave them biscuits and lemonade.

1500-1500





## Nothing can surpass taking the back seat in a Mercedes-Benz S-class except, of course, taking the wheel.

In the back of an S-class you can work or relax in a secure cocoon of high technology materials—isolated from distracting noise and vibration. The longest version of the S-class reposes on a wheelbase of more than ten feet and offers combined leg room of over six feet. The options for rear seat passengers include individual reading lights, cigar lighters, foot rests and electrically-operated seats. From the rear seat the car is nothing less than a spacious, comfortable limousine. From the driver's seat things take on a rather different complexion.

The driver is surrounded by more than twenty controls and information sources but their ergonomic refinement is so complete that each falls to hand or eye with almost uncanny familiarity.

An S-class consumes motorway miles with few demands on itself or its occupants, yet it seems to "shrink" in traffic or when the driver chooses to exercise the car's remarkable handling characteristics. The suspension, with coil springs and gas-filled shock absorbers all round, is supplemented with twin control arms at the front to induce anti-dive characteristics. The four-wheel, 11.8 inch disc brakes are supervised through the trickiest situations by the computer in the Mercedes-Benz anti-lock braking system. Take to the hills and lanes and an S-class demonstrates a sure-footedness that belies the size of its interior and the suppleness of its ride.

Flagship of the entire Mercedes-Benz range is the 560SEL. Not since the legendary "6.9" has there been a car with performance like it. The 5.6 litre, light alloy V-8 engine produces a phenomenal 300 bhp. Just how efficiently all this power finds its way to the road is a lesson in Mercedes-Benz engineering.

It starts with a four-speed, dual programme automatic transmission that is the best in the business. From there the power is guided to the wheels via a limited-slip differential. The self-levelling rear suspension and torque-compensating rear axle ensure that everything remains tidy when the wick is turned up.

Many S-class drivers choose the slightly smaller 300SE. Its 3 litre, ohc, fuel-injected six propels the car to 62mph in only 9.1 seconds and to a top speed of 128mph. (Manufacturer's figures, automatic.) Completing the range are the 4.2 litre and 5 litre V-8's available in SE (short) or SEL (long) wheelbase versions.

Other cars might match the S-class on a handful of attributes but no other car offers the same combination of elegance, comfort, performance and versatility.

An S-class is the most complete car in the world.



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## Farm fund threatened after EEC summit

## Britain hopeful of budget reform

From Richard Owen  
Copenhagen

EEC officials yesterday gave a warning that funds for the common agricultural policy would run out by mid-1988 unless the extraordinary summit planned for Brussels in February succeeds where the weekend event here did not deliver.

As EEC diplomats ponder the "partial failure" of the Copenhagen summit, the Community faces an emergency financing system in the absence of an agreed budget next year, and a £4 billion shortfall is predicted.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher appeared in buoyant mood as the summit broke up on Saturday evening. British officials maintained yesterday that the Prime Minister was right to describe the outcome as "encouraging".

The summit had made some progress on the EEC's farming and cash crisis, with many of Britain's demands taken into account. Community leaders agreed to meet again in Brussels on February 11 after further work by senior officials. But the remarkable good temper of the two-day summit, in striking contrast to the acrimony of the last summit at Brussels in June, obscured the fact that deep differences remain. France,

and above all West Germany, still resist the sweeping and binding farm cuts that Mrs Thatcher wants.

Countries such as Italy, Greece and Spain have profound doubts about other aspects of the emerging package, including the extent to which aid to the southern countries can be increased, and a proposed new system of revenues partly based on gross national product.

Italy, because of its "black economy", is particularly sensitive about the way the GNP element would be calculated.

Diplomats said the spirit of Copenhagen, which served to

### ● Drastic cuts in cereals output are 'sticking in Herr Kohl's gullet' ●

soften the impact of failure, could easily be dissipated as the spotlight turns on West Germany, which in January takes over the EEC presidency from Denmark.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's hardline opposition to automatic limits on farm output, known as "stabilizers", is widely blamed for the impasse. He will have the almost impossible task of balancing his duties as EEC chairman with the deep resistance to

reform from the West German farming lobby.

Herr Kohl was reported to be "very upset" at Copenhagen that the reform package, as progressively modified by the Danes in an attempt to find compromise, has moved towards British, rather than West German, conditions.

Although no final document was formulated, the Danish compromise remains on the table for February. One British official said that, in particular, drastic cuts in cereals output are "sticking in Herr Kohl's gullet".

British officials were delighted that Mrs Thatcher largely had succeeded in avoiding the impression given at the last summit that she was isolated in an 11-1 minority.

On the contrary, as the Copenhagen summit struggled through a series of increasingly technical papers worked out under pressure by increasingly tired officials, it was France and West Germany which appeared obstructive.

Mr Poul Schluter, the Danish Prime Minister, whose efficient chairmanship was praised by Mrs Thatcher and other leaders, said there was growing agreement on four key elements in the reform package put forward by M. Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission:

control of farm spending; budgetary discipline; changes in revenue-raising to include a GNP element; and an increase in regional aid to the south.

There is still a wide gap between Britain's demand for strict stabilizers, with an annual limit on cereals output of 155 million tonnes, and Bonn's insistence on a higher ceiling of at least 165 million tonnes, coupled with West German resistance to automatic price cuts.

Bonn also wants a "set-aside" scheme for cereals, with farmers compensated for taking land out of production, on the grounds that this

### ● The spirit that softened the impact of failure could easily be dissipated ●

softens the blow. At Copenhagen most countries, including Britain, accepted the concept of set aside.

Even if progress is made on this, the southern nations made it clear here that they will insist in February on a doubling of the regional and social funds, currently worth about £5 billion annually, or 15 per cent of the budget. The northern states argued for much lower increases.

When this issue is added to

arguments over the GNP element in revenues and the balance between GNP and VAT revenues, currently pegged at a ceiling of 1.4 per cent of national VAT receipts, it is difficult to detect much progress. Surprisingly, one of the few areas free of contention was the British budget rebate. Other EEC states, aware of Mrs Thatcher's determination to retain the rebate agreed at Fontainebleau in 1984, refrained from pursuing the point.

None the less, officials calculate that, in a reformed revenue system, Britain would end up paying more than £600 million extra per annum to the EEC.

Mrs Thatcher, asked what grounds there were for optimism given these conflicts, said the argument was no longer about whether to get farm spending under control but about how to do so.

"I am under no illusion the task will be easy," she said. Controlling spending would be painful for many countries, including Britain, and would become no less painful next year. The EEC would have to put up with a "hand-to-mouth" financing system of provision twelfths, based on this year's revenues of £25 billion until the crisis was solved.

Leading article, page 17

## Crackdown on Sikh protest



Mounted police at Fatehgarh Sahib, in the Indian state of Punjab, stop Baba Ajit Singh (centre) a Sikh religious leader, from leading a march by 2,000 Sikhs to protest against the continuing violence in Punjab. Some 400 of the demonstrators were arrested (Reuter reports). In Delhi, police arrested more than 200 Sikhs trying to march to Parliament from a Sikh

temple in the heart of the Indian capital on Saturday to press demands for political concessions in Punjab. The police had earlier taken steps against the planned protest by arresting five Sikh leaders, including Prakash Singh Badal, a former Punjab chief minister, who was freed from detention on Wednesday in the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh.

## Romania's economic woes

## Minister loses job over crisis

Vienna (Reuters) — President Ceausescu of Romania, facing domestic unrest because of deteriorating economic conditions, has dismissed his finance minister.

Mr Alexandru Babe was dismissed by presidential decree "for having failed to fulfil his job obligations," the official Agencepres news agency, monitored here, reported.

The dismissal was announced three days after the first official confirmation of a violent demonstration last month in Brasov, the country's second largest city, and an announcement that Romania may suspend repayment of its \$1.9 billion (£1.13 billion) debt to the World Bank.

Mr Babe was replaced by Mr Gheorghe Parashchiv, for-

mer Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and International Economic Co-operation, the agency said.

Some 20 ministers have been dismissed or reshuffled since late August. Western diplomats say Mr Ceausescu's way of dealing with chronic shortages of food and energy is simply to get rid of, or rearrange, his officials.

The severe shortages have resulted from Mr Ceausescu's drive since 1981 to halve the country's currency debt to about \$5.5 billion.

Up to 20,000 people are reported to have taken part in the Brasov protest on November 15, when eye-witnesses said the town hall and Communist Party headquarters were stormed.

## Regime blind to danger signals

By George Schöpflin

The sacking of Mr Alexandru Babe as Finance Minister is President Ceausescu's way of blaming anyone but himself for his country's troubles. Much the same can be said for the attacks on the World Bank that have been appearing in the Romanian media over the last few days, for allegedly charging exorbitant rates of interest. Mr Babe was evidently the nearest scapegoat.

The Ceausescu regime is in bigger trouble than it appears to recognize. The demonstration in Brasov last month was only the most visible sign of this, for the Ceausescu regime's toughest problem is itself. It is suffering from a manifest inability to perceive reality.

The symptoms have been multiplying for years. Mr Ceausescu has adopted the panoply of royalty and has set no limits to the flattery that surrounds him. He once had himself described in print as a "lay god" (whatever that may be). His efforts to promote his son, Nicu, as his successor, evidently point to dynastic ambitions.

But the political shortsightedness of the Ceausescu regime reaches well beyond this. The last decade has seen the country's energies diverted into projects that are senseless by all economic criteria. The building of the Danube-Black Sea Canal, which operates at a tenth of its capacity, and the destruction of large parts of Bucharest to construct a kind of "Ceausescaville" illustrate this.

These projects were launched at a time when much of the population was severely short of the most basic necessities of life, like food and heating. The shortages were, in turn, largely unnecessary, having their origins in Mr Ceausescu's decision to repay his Western creditors to the last penny, regardless of what it cost Romania. The banks were actually willing to offer Romania an easing of terms, but Mr Ceausescu refused in pursuit of his dream of independence.

The ironic consequence of this policy, apart from imposing the most terrible privations on the population, has been to undermine the economy and to push it towards reliance on the Soviet Union. Western sources estimate that there are up to 15,000 Soviet technical personnel in Romania.

The impact of Mr Gorbachev's reforms has been

highly unwelcome to Mr Ceausescu, who has gone out of his way to declare that neither glasnost nor perestroika are needed in Romania. But expectations have been aroused that change may, after all, be possible.

Attitude surveys of Romanians travelling to the West suggest that Mr Gorbachev has become the most popular Communist leader in the eyes of Romanians. Given traditional anti-Russian sentiments in Romania, this development is extraordinary.

The Romanian leadership has so far contained popular discontent by a mixture of concessions and repression. The system has functioned essentially by buying off dis-



Mr Ceausescu: Blaming anyone but himself.

satisfaction through granting access to privileges. So, for example, someone might be able to avoid the severe restrictions on heating by acquiring an exemption certificate on health grounds.

It was instructive that one of the responses of the authorities to the demonstration in Brasov was to rush foodstuffs to the town. The problem with this approach is that there are just not enough resources to buy off the population if the unrest spreads.

Nor are the instruments of repression quite as effective as they once were. Not only is the scarcity of resources beginning to affect the privileged position of the militia, but reports from Romania suggest that the morale of the security forces is deteriorating.

The final factor in the equation is the growing evidence of restiveness in the elite. Evidently, there is a current of opinion which senses that the end of an era is approaching. The Soviet Union could well be giving tacit encouragement to elements within the party that it favours the succession.



*Time was when life's finer things such as Hine Cognac were the preserve of a privileged few. Today, it is still the true connoisseur that appreciates the mature, mellow flavour of Hine. The dictionary defines a connoisseur as "one who is an expert judge in matters of taste".*

*And who are we to argue.*



150-64-100



## Opposition's rift widens with Korean rally battle

From Our Own Correspondent, Seoul

South Korean protesters hurled eggs, sticks and stones at Mr Kim Dae Jung, one of the main presidential candidates, at a rally in the southern port of Masan yesterday and demanded that he leave the election race to unify the opposition.

They forced him to rush through his speech, then burnt two of his staff cars after he left the event hurriedly.

Speaking in a region that has favoured Mr Kim Young Sam, of the Renmin Democratic Party, Mr Kim Dae Jung, the candidate of the Party for Peace and Demo-

cracy, was booed by thousands of people shouting his rival's name as he tried to address the crowd. The protesters, shouting "concede, concede", then began throwing stones, sticks, bottles and eggs, forcing Mr Kim Dae Jung to finish his speech under the cover of placards held by aides.

The candidate was not hurt, but at least three of his supporters were injured by the hail of objects. "I would never withdraw... let's set aside regional antagonism," he appealed as hundreds of protesters charged the podium and fought with security guards and his supporters.

Here in the capital, tens of thousands of students marched through the streets, chanting slogans against Mr Roh Tae Woo, the Govern-

ment's candidate for the poll a week on Wednesday. Police stood by, but did not interfere.

The two Kims, the opposition's strongest runners, have been attacked by protesters during appearances in each other's regional strongholds for failing to agree on a single candidate for the ballot despite earlier promises that they would come to an electoral arrangement.

The two Kims and Mr Roh, of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, have emerged with the most realistic chances of success. But opposition supporters fear that the fielding of two candidates will help Mr Roh to win the country's first direct presidential election since 1971.

Despite a ban on opinion polls, it is widely believed that almost one-third of the electorate is still undecided, making the final days of the campaign all the more intense.

Mr Kim Young Sam attracted arguably the largest gathering of the weekend's political events to a plaza in Seoul for what his aides had immodestly billed as "the biggest political rally in the history of the world". While the turn-out may not be assured a place in the Guinness Book of Records, by all accounts it was probably in excess of one million.

Mr Roh and Mr Kim Dae Jung each claimed similar drawing power in their home provinces of north Kyongsang and Cholla respectively on Saturday.

The field of eight candidates has been reduced by one after Ms Hong Sook Ja, the only woman among them, withdrew and announced that she was supporting Mr Kim Young Sam.

Her defection was denounced by the other candidates, who said it was a manoeuvre which had been planned long ago, and by her own Social Democratic Party which expelled her for not consulting party officials in advance.

## Rome embrace helps heal centuries-old wound



The Patriarch of Constantinople and the Pope praying for unity yesterday in Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica.

Rome (Reuters) — The spiritual leaders of the world's Orthodox Christians and the Pope embraced on the altar of St Peter's Basilica yesterday at a Mass marking a further step towards unity between their churches.

"Let us intensify the desire that burns in the hearts of our flock for reconciliation and unity. Let us straighten the paths that lead our churches on to the common road and union," the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Dimitrios I, said.

The Pope, in his homily, pledged to respect the traditions of the Orthodox churches but also reaffirmed the authority of Rome.

Dimitrios is only the second leader of the Eastern Orthodox churches to visit Rome in the nine centuries since the "Great Schism" of 1054. Leaders of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches have met only six times since the schism; out of these one took place in Italy in the 15th century, one in Jerusalem in 1964, one in the Vatican in 1967 and another in Istanbul in 1979.

## Turkish communist leaders charged

Ankara — Mr Haydar Kutlu and Mr Nihat Sargin, the two Turkish Communist leaders detained last month when they returned from exile, have been indicted by a security court (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

As they were taken from the court, Mr Sargin shouted that they had been tortured. The charges include harming the state's image abroad, spreading Communist propaganda and insulting the President.

Gun battle: Seven Kurdish guerrillas and two Turkish soldiers were killed in a gun battle near the Syrian border (Reuters reports).

## Rebels killed

Khartoum (AFP) — Sudanese troops killed 200 rebels in hand-to-hand fighting near the rebel-occupied southern town of Kurmuk.

## Drugs war

Bogota (Reuters) — Rafael Salazar, one of the alleged leaders of the drugs cartel in Medellin, was shot dead in a war for control of Colombia's drug-smuggling empire.

## No surrender

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — Mario Bivolarci, a policeman wanted in connection with murders of wealthy businessmen, killed himself when police surrounded his hide-out at Las Toninas.

## Crash funeral

Kigali, Rwanda (Reuters) — The 11 American tourists killed when their plane crashed in north-western Rwanda have been buried at Gisenyi because their bodies were too badly burnt to be returned to the US.

## Coup sentence

Nonskechett, (AFP) — Three army officers have been executed for their part in a failed coup.

## Acid deaths

Warsaw (Reuters) — Three people were killed and 16 injured when chloric acid fumes swept through a textile factory in Lodz.

## Kidnap hoax

Cincinnati (AFP) — Mr Joe Louis Barrow, the son of former boxing champion Joe Louis, has been accused of staging a false kidnapping.

## The India-China frontier dispute

# Delhi preparing to offer concessions

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A political decision appears to have been taken by the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to settle the long-standing border dispute with China.

The only way such a settlement could be reached is by the mutual ceding of territory, which India has ruled out since the two countries went to war in 1962. Its opposition was enshrined in a parliamentary resolution at that time.

"There is a growing realization that that resolution is not sacrosanct," a senior Indian diplomat said at the weekend. "There is a complete new generation of leaders at work in both countries now."

It is clear that the process of softening up public opinion to accept some sort of territorial concession is under way. Earlier this month, for example, Mr Gandhi met the parliamentary committee which oversees the work of the Ministry of External Affairs and explained that his Government was working towards "a just solution" of the border questions.

His remarks were generally well received, despite some opposition by right-wingers, with some MPs urging him to "develop a national consensus" on the issue.

A significant change has taken place in the Indian attitude towards normalizing relations with China. Until now closer links have been tied to settlement of the border dispute. Now, a diplomat explained, the settlement is being put to one side to let a warmer atmosphere develop, eventually making territorial concessions easier to "sell" to the Indian public.

Although the recent eighth round of official and ministerial talks between the two countries made little progress, it was held in an atmosphere of good will, and Mr Gandhi has now accepted an invitation to visit Peking.

Both sides are playing down the importance of territorial infractions. Since the early summer such disputes have been settled at the level of the local military command.

Moreover, India has the incarnate deity, the Dalai Lama, resident at Dharmasala in Himachal Pradesh. The disputed border is divided into three sections, and the two countries have not yet agreed on how they should be tackled. The Indians have wanted a sector-by-sector approach, but the Chinese have wanted an overall settlement.

in which they could propose a territorial trade-off. At the westernmost end of the 2,200-mile line in the north of Kashmir, India is annoyed that an area has been ceded to China by Pakistan, in

beyond the Karakoram Pass is the plain of Aksai Chin, which according to the Chinese has been part of China since the 17th century.

The Indians reject this, maintaining the area has been part of the Kingdom of Ladakh and recognized as such in treaties between Ladakh and Tibet and China in 1684 and 1842.

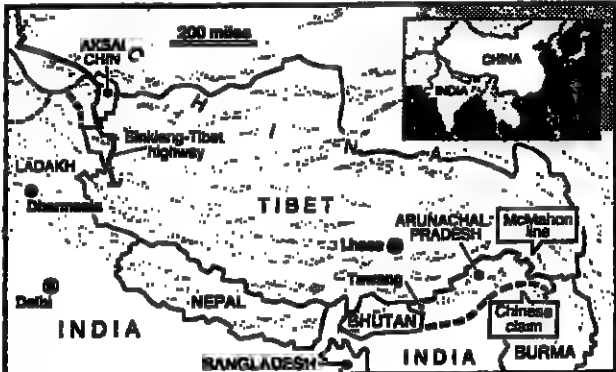
In the middle sector of the border above Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, a series of disputes focuses on control of the high passes.

But the most contested border area is in the east, where the Chinese claim encompasses the whole of the new Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese say that the traditional border runs around the foothills of the Himalayas, and that Arunachal is almost wholly Tibetan in character.

The Indians say that the border should run along the highest ridge and that this principle was agreed in 1914 at the Simla conference between British India, Tibet and China.

Illegal occupation of the state, according to the Indians. Peking has stressed that its agreement with Pakistan has a clause saying the accord is an interim one, and they will renegotiate it with whoever eventually has an undisputed right to that part of Kashmir.

But the key problem in this sector lies further east. Just



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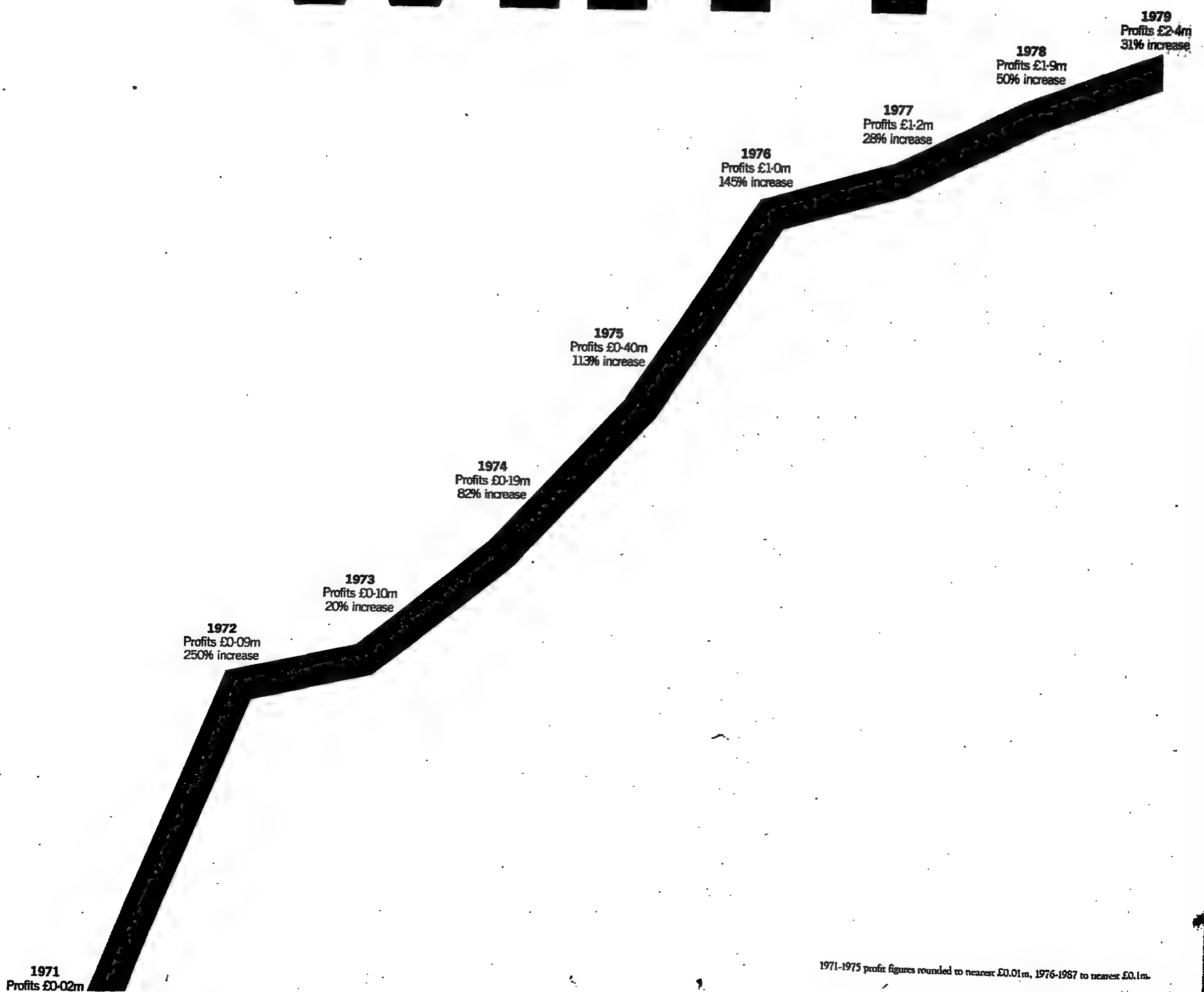
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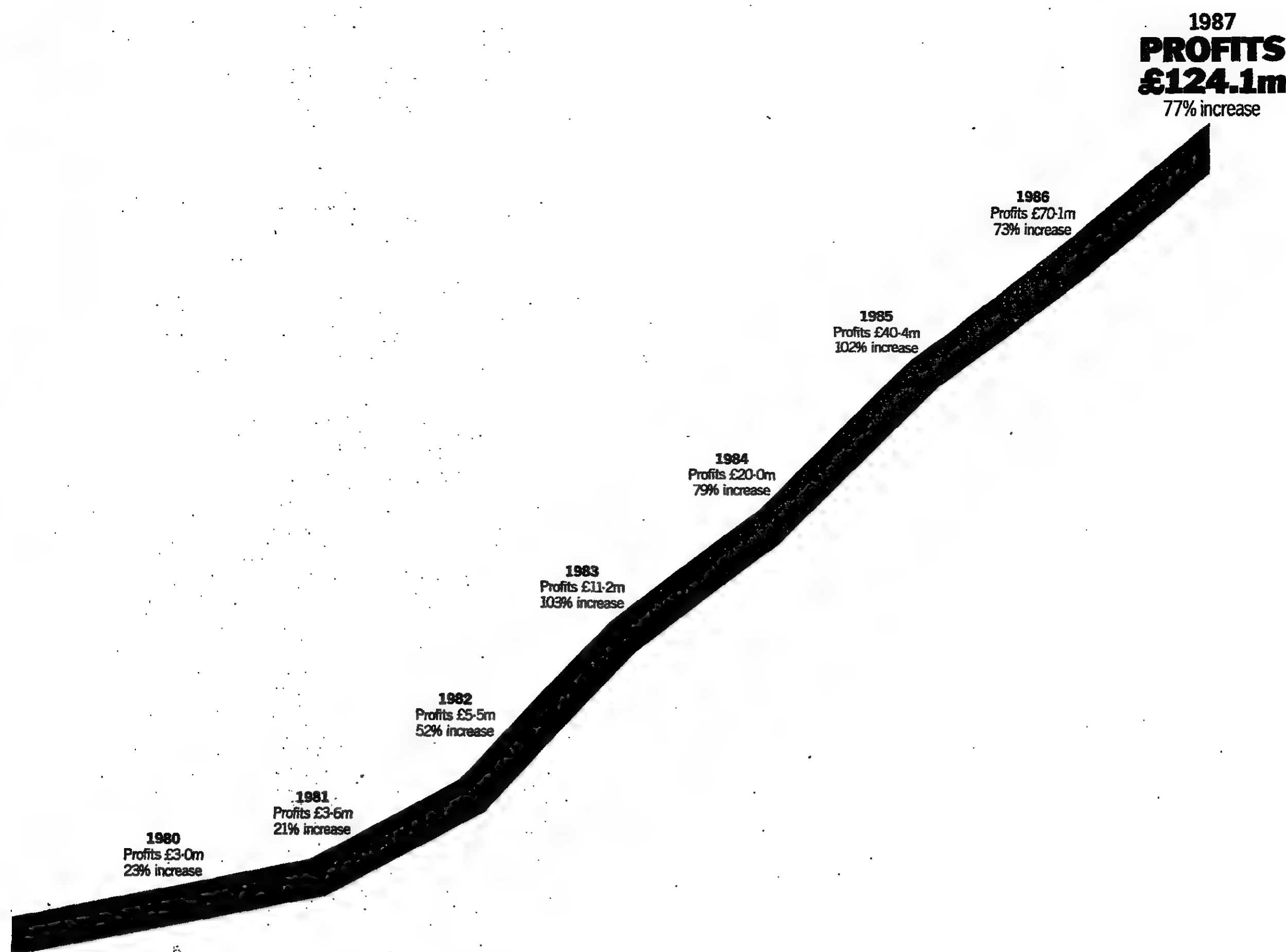
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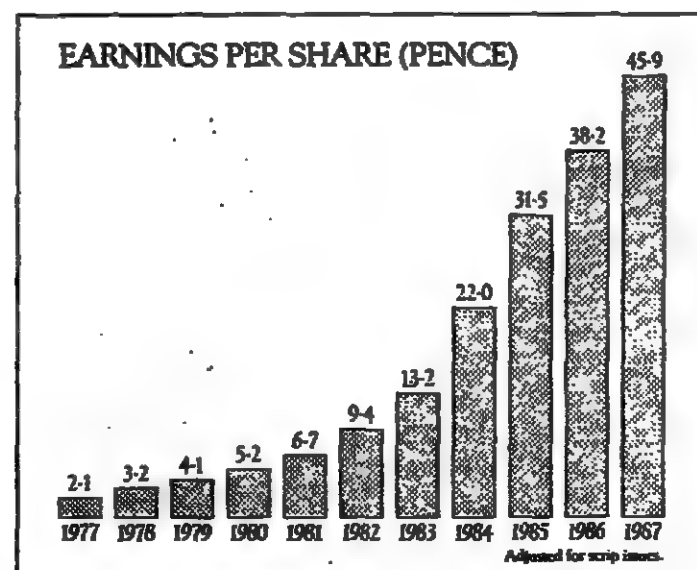
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in globalisation of world markets is being shared by an increasing number of these corporations. 70 clients now work with the Company across five or more countries.

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● But the problem is about more than money and statistics. Disabled people feel that there is a need for a change in public perception . . . they want to be treated as normal, yet they also want the Government to realize that they have special needs. In particular, they say, an environment that caters almost exclusively for the able-bodied must change.

The Sturgeses consider themselves lucky. With the allowances, they say they can afford to look after Kay adequately. The benefit also helps subsidize "respite care" for Kay in a local home, so



outing as it is essentially more of the same. It could look funny, I suppose, when viewed from the safe distance of mobility; but if the exercise has to be repeated I definitely won't be offering as a volunteer.

### Sins of omission: unemployment and the disabled

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**Pam Sturges with daughter Kay: "The bills are enormous."**

<b>Total</b>	<b>£60.31</b>
<b>Entitlement from April</b>	
18-24 rate	£26.05
Single person's disability premium	£13.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>£39.10</b>

**Source:** Disability Alliance.

He says much of the emotional suffering which the disabled experience comes from throwaway remarks from the able-bodied. "Disability is seen as something to be avoided, as something catching. A head waiter once came up to me and said 'We don't serve wheelchairs.' My wheelchair wasn't hungry."

**Jill Sherman**

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.



## SPECTRUM 2

# Gone today, here tomorrow

The Christmas mail may be safe, but what future has the GPO in an increasingly competitive marketplace? Sally Brompton organized a race between the GPO and its rivals to deliver an 'overnight' package

## SORTING OUT THE FIELD

We deliberately chose a difficult route, from the village of Hurstpierpoint in Sussex to Talmine, overlooking the Kyle of Tongue on Scotland's northern coast; the nearest railway station, at Lairg, is almost 50 miles south.

● **THE PRELIMINARIES:** Having wrapped up the packages — weighing about 2lb each — I telephoned a handful of overnight door-to-door companies. Federal Express refused the job on the grounds that it does not deal with private individuals; Securicor's Brighton office assured me that it could "put it in one of our special envelopes and that will be £13.80", and guaranteed delivery by 9am the next day before recollecting that they only collect from Hurstpierpoint in the morning; a very helpful girl at Interlink regretfully told me that it would take them a minimum of 48 hours. A less

helpful girl at DHL ("Ain't no mountain high enough", according to the television jingle) could not find this particular mountain range on her map. DHL could get the package up to Inverness in a day, but from there it would have to be "re-forwarded" — which would cost an additional £5 and could take two or three days. "How would it be re-forwarded?" I inquired. "By post," she replied.

● **THE PLAYERS:** Of the dozen companies who boast next-day delivery to anywhere in the United Kingdom, only three accepted this assignment: Datapost, British Rail's Red Star and the independent, Australian-owned TNT. They did not know the job was for *The Times* nor that it was a race. Booked at approximately 2pm on a Tuesday, all three guaranteed door-to-door delivery by noon the following day.



The winner: Mary Belth takes delivery of the first parcel to arrive — by Datapost — albeit 5½ hours late

## THE PICK UP

## STARTER'S ORDERS

Having rung the Red Star Freephone number (slogan: "You've got a deadline, we've got a lifeline"), I was told that the nearest Red Star station able to collect my package was in Brighton, about 10 miles away. The customer services assistant assured me that it would be delivered to the Highlands by noon on the following day, adding: "It would be cheaper by post." At Brighton's main line station I was informed that Mr Polly, the parcel agent, did not go as far as Hurstpierpoint. "There's only one other way and that's very expensive," said the Red Star counter clerk gloomily. The "other way" turned out to be by private taxi, which would make the total door-to-door delivery price £18.40.

When I called the Byfleet depot of TNT ("Absolutely, positively overnight") responsible for the West Sussex area, a clerk told me that next-day delivery to the Highlands would cost £15. Alternatively, I could be more specific and pay £35 for delivery by 9am, £30 for delivery by 10.30am, or a "before noon" delivery for £25. When I balked at the

£35, she said: "Well, I suppose I could knock a bit off — shall we say £30?" I settled for the £25 "before noon" delivery.

My local Datapost office ("Depend on it, Datapost it"), took five minutes to answer their telephone and then told me that to have my parcel collected I would need to ring Brighton. The counter clerk in the Brighton office was confused by the fact that the destination had no street name, but guaranteed delivery by noon the next day for £13.90.

## THEY'RE OFF

Within half an hour of my telephone call, an enormous TNT lorry pulled up outside my house. The Red Star taxi arrived 50 minutes after I put down the receiver to British Rail. A large Post Office van appeared an hour and three-quarters after my conversation with their office. The engaging young postal worker had trouble figuring out which copy of the Datapost form to give to me. "Well, if it's wrong, it's wrong, and I expect they'll send me back," he said. The correct copy arrived by post the following day.

## FIRST PAST THE POST

## FINISHING LINE

Mary Belth sat waiting in her isolated cottage in northern Scotland. Wednesday noon came and went with no sign of the express couriers. Dusk had fallen over the snow-capped peaks of Ben Loyal by the time she saw the headlights of the Royal Mail post bus picking its way up the lonely track. Relief postman Sandy Gray handed her a Datapost package from Sussex. The time was 5.30pm, five and a half hours later than the Post Office's guaranteed delivery time.

By lunchtime on Thursday there was still no sign of either Red Star or TNT. I rang TNT and was told that "our customer services are out to lunch right now. I'll ask them to ring you as soon as they get back." At Brighton station, the Red Star counter clerk confirmed that my package had left Brighton. At 1.13pm on Thursday, a man driving a private car arrived at Belth's front door bearing the Red Star package, 25 hours late. He had been sub-contracted by the local BR agent in Lairg.

Subsequent inquiries revealed that the Brighton taxi-driver whose company was contracted to work for Red Star had taken on another job at the same time, causing him to miss the evening train. My parcel had eventually arrived at Lairg at about 8.30am on Thursday, together with another Red Star parcel which the sub-contracted driver had delivered first to Ullapool — 50 miles in the opposite direction.

By 10am on Friday, there was still no sign of TNT, nor

had their office rung me back. I telephoned their customer service department and explained my problem. She contacted the local agent in Inverness. "He's going to try to get it out for delivery later. If not, it will be there by Monday." When I protested that if I had known that my urgent package would have taken nearly a week to arrive by TNT's express service I would have posted it, she replied: "That's up to you."

At 3.27pm on Friday a light van arrived at Belth's house, bearing a package with TNT's label: 51 hours late. The driver, who runs his own delivery business in Rosshire, gets paid £2.50 per parcel by TNT. "I'll never deliver up here again," he told Belth. "It's not worth my while."

## THE INQUEST

I passed on the results of our test to the companies concerned. The Post Office's Director of Royal Mail Parcels Marketing, Michael Maister, was "naturally disturbed". Red Star's product development manager, Bert Blissett, found it unfortunate. "There's no earthly reason why we shouldn't do what we say we will do," he admitted. "That really is bad." TNT's head of express parcels, Ken McCall, who knows Lairg personally, told me: "It's not the easiest place to get to. It would normally take us up to three days to deliver to that part of the world. The girl who gave you the guarantee obviously didn't know where it was."

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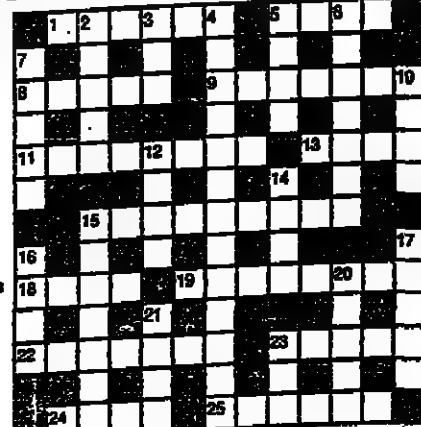
## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1432

## ACROSS

- 1 Illegal occupancies (6)
- 5 Fear (4)
- 8 Slacken (5)
- 9 Brave (7)
- 11 Underbodice shirt (8)
- 13 Pack (4)
- 15 "Horse's Mouth" Author (5,4)
- 18 Wan (4)
- 19 Holmes's companion (2,6)
- 22 Picture descriptive (7)
- 23 Extra payment (5)
- 24 Fable (4)
- 25 Include (6)

## DOWN

- 2 Scruple (5)
- 3 Yes vote (3)
- 4 Marmalade fruit (7,6)
- 5 Jar (-)



- 6 Dark-skinned (7)
- 7 Lushious situation (5)
- 10 Pulls (4)
- 12 Asian bean (4)
- 14 Small cake (4)
- 15 Old hanger (7)
- 16 Saga (4)
- 17 Grind (teeth) (5)
- 20 Church council (5)
- 21 One's friends (4)
- 23 Baby apron (3)

Greetings from **Le Mont-Dore**  
 Saturday.  
 Dinner party at the Chalet.  
 Jules Verne outlined the plot of his latest manuscript, "Journey to the Bottom of the Garden".  
 I sipped my Benedictine and suggested he write something with a little more depth to it.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Dropping the Porter

The health of Westminster Council's leader, Lady Porter, continues to exercise the minds of her Tory group colleagues. All have received letters from the convalescent in Florida, where she is recovering from a "mystery virus", assuming that she is returning on December 18 when a consultation with her doctor will decide her future. But dissident members of the group are taking no chances. I hear they have asked one of their local MPs, Peter Brooke, who also happens to be Tory party chairman, to force the issue if doctor's orders do not already indicate the need for surgery. Already the fight for succession is quietly underway. Porter loyalists are lining up behind radical-right housing chairman Peter Harley, I learn, while those ready for a change are pushing for Tony Pendergast, who tells me that though he is not desperate to be leader he will stand if he gets the call.

### Woolly thinking

The machismo of the Labour Party came under attack at the "Beating the Blues" conference at the weekend. In the brochure for the Fabian-sponsored gathering in London a Nalga female officer wrote: "Labour is strongly identified with a male culture. The party team visible round Kinnock is still male. And they are seen as particular sort of man: grey suits, not a jersey between them. We've got power and we are hanging on to it. They seem to say, 'Two of Kinnock's closest aides were among the 70 speakers: a heavily-pregnant Patricia Hewitt, Kinnock's press secretary and Peter Mandelson, director of communications, who was sporting a yellow jumper which he said he donned before seeing the programme."

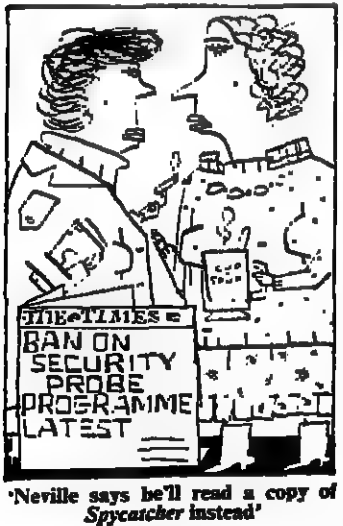
One Blues conference joke was reckoned to be so sharp it was made twice in half an hour. MPs Gordon Brown and Tony Blair said of SDP leader Robert Maclennan: "A year ago unknown in Britain. Now unknown throughout the world." Surely once was more than enough?

### Hollywood wife

Whatever may be said about David Putnam, ill-fated spell as head of Columbia Pictures, in Hollywood, no one can say that he rushed into the job. Before accepting it, the *Chariots of Fire* producer took his wife Patsy to Atlanta to take part in his protracted negotiations with the studio's owner, Coca-Cola. This unusual aspect of his engagement has been gleaned by author Chris Goodwin for a forthcoming book, *Eddie in Babylon*, on Putnam's short tenure. "I don't want this turning out that I did something weird," Putnam explains. "For a decision that meant such a change in her life too, not to involve her would have been callous. I regard it as the responsible act of an enlightened 20th-century man."

A trendy lefty, complete with flashy sneakers, was overheard asking a former Labour MP as they boarded the train after the Beating the Blues do if he could look through his copy of *New Statesman*. His reason: the £1 cover price was too much for someone on the dole. The chap was, however, clutching a £3.50 bottle of Sauvignon which he had purchased from the *Marxism Today* stand (where, incidentally, only white wine was on sale).

BARRY FANTONI



Neville says he'll read a copy of *Spycatcher* instead.

### Late booking

Organizers of the first Commonwealth Book Prize are going back to the drawing board before next year's award ceremony, after confusion that led to the last-minute cancellation of an audience with the Queen for the prize-winner. The contest was organized in two stages, the first involving four regional judging panels which put forward winners and runners up for the final assessment in London last week. Olive Senior, from Jamaica, came second to Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood in their regional section so did not qualify for a paid-for trip to Britain. Last Monday, however, the prize's overall judges opted for her collection of short stories, *Summer Lightning*. There then remained only 24 hours for her appointment with the Queen. Senior, who was in the Philippines, could not make the journey in time. The Commonwealth Foundation tells me arrangements for 1988's prize-giving are under review. You bet.

PHS

## As Mikhail Gorbachov meets Mrs Thatcher, Andrei Navrozov argues that the imminent INF treaty is as deluded and dangerous as the pact of 1938

### Is the nuclear Munich about to be signed?

"Never has a simpler document been issued in history with consequences more far-reaching or more pregnant with hope." With these words, on September 30 1938, *The New York Times* reported on the meeting between Hitler and Neville Chamberlain at Munich. "Prime Minister Wildly Cheered by Relieved Londoners", said the headline. "King Welcomes Him at Palace."

Half a century later, it is easy to see the Munich Pact for what it really was. Hitler wanted Czechoslovakia, but why go to the trouble of conquering it if it could be exchanged for a piece of paper? Hence the agreement, "symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again". Symbolic indeed. By 1942, Hitler dominated the whole of continental Europe.

As the Austrian historian Ernst Topitsch reminds us in his new book, *Stalin's War*, Hitler was no great strategist. He merely made indiscriminate use of the opportunities presented to him, exploiting Chamberlain's blunders and falling into the traps laid by Stalin. For this reason, although the euphoria which today permeates Western public opinion over the prospective signing of an immediate nuclear forces treaty this week by President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachov is reminiscent of 1938, a literal parallel is somewhat misleading.

The Soviet totalitarian empire, now spanning a sixth of the globe, has existed for 70 years, not seven, as Hitler's Germany had at the time of Munich. Its rulers are neither dreamers nor gamblers but experienced strategic thinkers who have at their disposal the resources of a vast military infrastructure concealed from Western eyes by a variety of means, from camouflage afforded by an apparently civil economy to disinformation produced by a sophisticated propaganda machine. In particular, the empire's known superiority over Nato's conventional

forces has now exceeded the ratio of 2:1 in artillery and mortars and 9:1 in chemical weapons. Given the nature of totalitarianism, its lead in available manpower, assessed by Western experts at 3:2, is all but incalculable.

Against the background of what Winston Churchill once called "smooth-sounding platitudes, refusal to face unpleasant facts, desire for popularity and electoral successes irrespective of the vital interests of the state", the condemnation of the proposed treaty by the French Defence Minister, Andre Giraud, as a "nuclear Munich" has hardly been noticed in the West. By contrast, West Germany's reluctance to part with its ageing tactical deterrent, at least until the terms of the treaty have been met, has not passed unnoticed in the East. Gorbachov is planning a friendly visit to Chancellor Kohl intended to remove the last political obstacle blocking the road to the allegorical Munich and, for that matter, to the real one as well.

The Soviet rulers cannot begin their move westward so long as one of the West European nations is capable of annihilating the invading armour by means of its short and medium-range nuclear missiles. Even if the proposed treaty were verifiable, the absence of such a deterrent is an open invitation to such a move, a simple fact which even an indifferent strategist like Hitler would



Chamberlain meets Mussolini at Munich. Today, the forces facing the West are even more formidable. And even a dunce can understand that the United States, hesitant to enter the Second World War on behalf of embattled democracy, would never be able to enter the next one as a nuclear force. Today's geopolitical realities preclude the use of American strategic capability in defence of Europe.

In this light, Mrs Thatcher's five-point memorandum to President Reagan last November — a "zero-zero" agreement on INF, a 50 per cent reduction in strategic weapons, a total ban on chemical weapons, greater parity in conventional forces in Europe and

continued research on SDI — is a mixed bag of hopeful realism and diplomatic illusions.

"I will never give up Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, and neither will France," she has since promised. Mrs Thatcher is no Chamberlain, but she is no more capable of stemming the tide of wishful thinking in America than Churchill could stem it in his own country while Chamberlain was prime minister. Nor has she any direct control over the policies of her European allies, nor those of her successors in office.

The truth is that the spectre of Munich has never left us. The farcical inability of our intelligence community to penetrate the closed totalitarian societies and the conspicuous failure of our policy-making elite to understand them have allowed it to haunt Europe. For defence, global strategy, and foreign policy are fantasies unless they are based on reliable data, and the collection of such data proved difficult enough in the Third Reich. Today, the task before Western democracies is infinitely more formidable.

The spectre abides in the nature of concrete totalitarianism, ruthlessly pragmatic in its expansionist aims. It feeds on propagandistic fictions, like détente and glasnost. It revels in diplomacy; behind it are rows of broken treaties, neglected tombstones in the graveyard of liberty. Whether the Soviet rulers contemplate an open and sudden conquest of Western Europe, or merely its gradual Finlandization, it is clear that the conclusion of the proposed INF accord will mark the spectre's last appearance in these parts. For the last of the documents with consequences more far-reaching or more pregnant with hope than any in history will have been signed and the fate of Europe finally sealed.

The author is a Russian-born writer and journalist living in Britain.

## Bernard Levin: the way we live now

### Life's great splinter group

G.K. Chesterton expressed amazement at finding a man who could tell the difference between Mr Asquith and Mr Balfour, but could not tell the difference between one kind of socialist and another kind of socialist, and I was powerfully reminded of the story a few days ago, when I read three items about people with both a symbolic and an actual similarity to Chesterton's *idiot savant*.

The first concerned a very jolly row in CND, which was having its annual conference. There they were, all warm and snug, leaving Nato, bringing peace to the Persian Gulf, proving that more unilateralism from Labour would have won the general election, and generally contributing to life's rich tapestry, when all of a sudden there erupted a faction which apparently thinks that the happy fantasies which CND was embracing were far too realistic, and needed a powerful extra dose of unreason, offering to supply the same in limitless quantities and at no charge.

The leader of this groupuscule was Wilmette of Yellow Gate (she sounds like a long-lost sequel to *Good Favour*), who claimed that CND was in favour of racism, sexism and poverty. Sung by this comprehensive and implausible charge, up sprang Vic from Orange Gate to insist that she at least was free of such stains, being wholly in favour of anti-semitism, anti-racism and anti-hierarchy. (That's a new one to me; who preaches hierarchy, and what is it?)

The second occasion on which ideologues danced on the point of a needle concerned Vanessa's Loonies. You may recall that not long ago the Loonies underwent fission; their leader, a Mr Healy, was accused of the most flagitious behaviour, and — not necessarily because of this — everybody began to expel everybody else from the party. Vanessa herself, and her brother Corin, managed to hang on to a splinter from the One True Ark, and founded the Loonies Mark II, of which they may be the only members, while Mr Healy, it seems, founded the Loonies Mark III, of which he could well be the only member.

Meanwhile, another lot, the Loonies Mark IV, have been picketing a theatre in which Vanessa and Corin (wouldn't it be awful if they fell out ideologically, and began to expel each other, thus necessitating yet more sets of Loonies numbered to several places of decimals) were giving a performance of a work written to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution (it appears that attitudes to the Soviet Union vary widely from Loony to Loony). Naturally, I take no sides, even if only because there are so many sides that I wouldn't know which to take.

The third episode (be patient, there is a point in all this, and not only the one on which the ideologues dance) took place in West Germany. The Green Party there is also in a state of fission. The reason for this is as obscure as those governing the disputes within CND and the Loonies. It seems that one variety wants to blow everybody up very quickly, and others prefer to blow everybody up more slowly, while a third faction seems reluctant to blow everybody up at all, though not very reluctant.

Anathema sit! Anathema sit!

Now what all these groupuscules have in common is, obviously, their astonishing capacity for repeatedly splitting into two or more pieces; their fissiparousness must be the envy of the amoeba, or for that matter the atom. Far too little attention, however, has been given to the surely interesting question of why they split. For the differences between the factions in any of these organizations are so tiny and so reconcile that they are at the same time invisible under even the most powerful microscope and unintelligible even to the greatest logicians.

The clue lies in their lack of staying power. Almost all the members of these millenarian sects rapidly become dissatisfied with the ideol-



*"It seems one variety wants to blow everybody up very quickly, and others prefer to blow everybody up more slowly, while a third faction seems reluctant to blow everybody up at all, though not very reluctant"*

logical cloak they are wrapped in when they join, and soon seek a revised version of the one truth, indistinguishable from the authorized version in the eyes of the leader, but plain to see in the eye of faith. The reason for their restlessness is, in turn, their dissatisfaction with the progress made in bringing about whatever it was they wanted to bring about when they joined — revolution, the liquidation of the bourgeoisie, free beer, compulsory jogging for all, more (or less) Montevideo on Radio Four — the list will extend as far as you wish to stretch it, and no end in sight.

But no beginning, either. And we must go on to another question, arising out of the last answer. Why is it that they make no progress towards their sky-blue heaven? After all, they are not all mad, and some of their aims — take the gentler variety of ecological concern, for instance — are both praiseworthy and sensible. Why do not people flock in greater numbers to some at least of the thousands of banners held aloft in that extraordinary marketplace, where nostrum battles with nostrum, and the customers pass by?

The answer goes to the heart of the party system which operates, in one form or another, in all democratic nations. (There are no groupuscules in dictatorships, or at least none that can operate above ground.) A party, or an organization with a political idea or cause, needs to represent a serious and extensive interest, and if it cannot gain such a connection, or loses the one it has enjoyed, it will wither and die. The Liberal Party lost its hinterland soon after the Great War, because the interest it had come into being to serve (roughly, those who had done well out of the Industrial Revolution) had disappeared, dissolved in the Tory interest (initially that of the landed families), while at the same time a new interest (the Labour Party, representing the newly-enfranchised working masses) was est-

ing the Liberal Party away from the other side.

The Liberal Party still exists, of course, in the form of a ghost, but though it occasionally clanks its chains and flaps its sheet, it will never come to life again. The SDP was a very good idea, and for a time it seemed that there might be a genuine interest for it to serve, viz., the new-style middle class. But Mrs Thatcher, showing once again how adaptable the Tories can be (a quality they have acquired because they have avoided ideology altogether), moved quickly to offer the potential SDP interest enough to tempt them away from the uncharted new order. If the Alliance had not behaved as foolishly as any anathematizing group of Loonies, it would have spotted that its only chance — and a real one — was to move in on Labour's shrinking interest (I believe Mr Brian Walden's neighbours have begun to complain because he is in the habit of screaming this truth in his sleep, so deep is his bitterness at seeing it ignored or fled from by all except Dr Owen.) But there is no point in talking about what the Alliance might have done, or anyway no more point than in talking about what Vanessa's Loonies Mark XVII might yet do; it is dead and buried, though it will continue to dance on its own grave for some time to come.

That, of course, leaves the Labour Party. Its interest has been gradually disappearing for some years, and the speed of dissolution is getting greater all the time. The most fascinating aspect of its shrinking, however, is that — the Alliance having bowed out as serious contenders for its interest, or for anything else — there is no obvious replacement, nothing to rush into the vacuum. Some time around Mrs Thatcher's seventh term (she will be only 79 when elected to it), there may be some group sufficiently cohesive, substantial and dissatisfied to become an interest which Labour could seriously serve. On the other hand, there may not. On to the eighth.

Any Loony, of any variety, who has read so far, will be inclined to say that this is a somewhat Marxist analysis for a notorious capitalist lackey and servant of reaction. I can't help that; I see what I see, and if that bushy-bearded old fraud claims that he saw it first, let him have the credit.

Many years ago, Mr Denis Healey, addressing the Labour Party conference on an all-or-nothing motion that might have been written by the Looniest of all Loonies, attacked the hopelessly impractical nature of the cause, and said, in a memorable phrase, "Whose half-loaf are you giving away?" But the Labour Party wouldn't listen, and went on believing that nothing is almost as good as all, and possibly better. Whence its present condition, to say nothing of its future one. If I were Corin Redgrave (which thank the Lord I'm not, Sir), I would make a bid.

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T.E. Utley

## Imbeciles of the moral world

Many years ago I was introduced (I forget by whom) to a new phenomenon or, to be exact, a phenomenon with which I was already familiar was given (for the first time in my experience) a precise definition. That phenomenon was "moral imbecility". It is the total suspension of normal critical faculties and the normal capacity to distinguish facts which afflicts a great many highly sophisticated people when confronted with "moral issues" involving their prejudices.

It is being handsomely displayed at present in the chorus of *bien-pensant* opposition to David Alton's abortion bill. To name but a few manifestations of this phenomenon — there is the tiresome but extremely able Miss Polly Toynbee, the delightful and sincere but averagely intelligent Miss Julia Langdon and the "prestigious" Mr Simon Jenkins. There are many more whom I shall forbear to name. Mr Alton has put their collective "knickers in a twist".

Let us consider, then, what Mr Alton's bill is about. He is not concerned with the criteria which are held to make abortion legitimate. I myself regret that fact, but I record it. He is concerned solely with the stage of pregnancy at which an abortion can properly take place. Here, we all start from a common premise. It would be wrong to kill a child who had already been born just because his continued existence would be a nuisance to society. It would be wrong to kill a perfectly formed foetus on the verge of birth for the same reason. The law says it should not be done after 28 weeks. Most of the opponents of Mr Alton's bill are content with that definition. Mr Alton thinks it should not be done after 18 weeks; he has powerful evidence on his side, and evidence which would be seriously considered and debated by anyone who was not a "moral imbecile".

But what happens? A chorus of abuse is directed against him for having given to the press a picture of an 18-week-old foetus. He is appealing, it is said, to "emotion" and "sentimentality". Why emotion should be a bad thing to appeal to I do not know. But reason, surely, is a good thing to appeal to; it should temper emotion. Do these smart people object to the publishing of lurid descriptions of operations for lung cancer in order to discourage us from smoking? I do not object to that either; I simply claim the right to dispute the intended inferences from those pictures. In this matter I am rational, they are not.

Other worse arguments are invoked. It is said, for instance (I cannot remember by which of them) that the matter of an

abortion should be determined solely between a woman and her doctor. In the terms of the argument, that is "moral imbecility" *par excellence*. It is almost the precise moral equivalent of saying that if a man (I include woman) is to be murdered, the matter should be decided between the prospective murderer and his (I include her) accomplice. We are all agreed that some abortions are wrong on that basis we cannot possibly maintain that they should be authorized simply by the fiat of a woman and her medical adviser.

The husband or lover surely has something to do with it. The law imposes on him some obligations to support a living child. It must therefore give him some say in whether the child should live. The tiresome Miss Toynbee seems to be congratulating herself on the fact that she extracted from Mr Alton a somewhat ambivalent reply about whether he was homosexually inclined. She in fact got a very honest answer. What is odd, however, is that she seems to have thought that a male homosexual would be automatically opposed to a "woman's right" to kill her children. In my experience, this is not so. Most male homosexuals whom I have known are quite excessively protective of women and regard the measures that are necessary to the procreation of children to be an unpleasantly brutal assault. That appears to me to be *au fond* Miss Toynbee's view, though I would never dream of describing her as a "lesbian", which I suspect, with no experience to guide me, is not the fact. Might she then not have attacked David Alton's bill on its merits? Well, I suppose not — she had to write a sparkling article.

Yet there are warnings which I will give to Mr Alton. The plain truth of the matter is that the majority of people do not regard abortion as "murder". Of the numerous admirable secretaries I have employed in the past 30 years, I would say that, at a rough estimate, 50 per cent of them have told me, in the course of discussing this subject, that they have had abortions (in this matter there is no causal connection). I do not regard them as murderers, but simply as the victims of "moral imbecility". If Mr Alton decides to go in for arranging demonstrations and pickets he will do his bill grave damage. Moreover, if he attacks private hospitals about the amount of money they make from abortions (making money is not a bad thing in itself) he will be desperately confusing the issue. After all, he has a strong intellectual case; his opponents — the "moral imbeciles" — have nothing to offer but an incoherent repetition of the clichés of the Sixties.

however... Philip Howard

## Patron saint of untidy minds

A tidy desk is the sign of a tidy mind, they say, damn them. They can never have been inside a newspaper office. But perhaps that would confirm their worst suspicions about the frivolity and unprofessionalism of the inkly trade. Journalists cannot bear to throw paper away, because it might come in useful one day for their nightmare, a hole in the page, or having to write a piece in 10 minutes with nothing to write about — not that the latter ever stopped a true professional.

One should leave one's desk at the end of the day as neat as Mrs Thatcher's kitchen, with a clean start for tomorrow, the pencils sharpened and in a straight row. But how seldom one does. It's a comfort that some of the most efficient people I know have desks like a haystack in a hurricane, and make continual beautiful lists of things to be done without ever getting round to doing them.

And now comes another example of the virtues of an untidy desk, a butterfly mind, and an incapacity to throw away wastepaper. Today Boydell & Brewer, the admirably highbrow Suffolk publishers with strong connections with Cambridge University, publish five facsimile volumes of the scrapbooks in which Pepys pasted his vast collection of pop songs of the day, his broadsheet ballads. Everybody else chucked away such trivial ephemera as soon as a new song rose to top of the pops. But not him.

He collected them like a demented squirrel, pasted them into volumes, annotated them, and got his scribe to design calligraphic title pages. He also played on his flageolet and sang them. Nobody can accuse Pepys of being inefficient. He was a superb administrator, politician, fixer, diplomat, and gossip, who got through more in a day than most of us manage in two, as well as keeping the best diary in English. It is a credit to Chaos, the patron god of untidy desks and journalism, that Pepys's collection of rubbishy wastepaper has turned to gold.

For political historians the bal-

lads bring back to life popular attitudes to such diverse events as the execution of Raleigh and the Glorious Revolution. For the social historian there are accounts of city low life, murdering midwives, calves born with topknots, and the Great Fire. Students of literature will be interested in the full texts of the ballads from which Ophelia sings snatches, and the connection between the ballad of *Gertrude the Jew* and *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as



Chris Wormald references in the ballads to Chaucer and Shakespeare.

There are nearly 4,000 woodcuts, some of them magnificent, illustrating the ballads in the fine old English art form that still flourishes in this column: like the ballads, many of these are unique, and rich sources of information about the 17th century in such matters as details of fashions, of interiors of houses and shops and, as a result of Pepys's position as Secretary of the Admiralty, many aspects of naval life. As you would expect with Pepys, there is one volume of doubtful ballads, and some about which there can be no doubt at all: *An Excellent Song about a Hot Engagement between a French Privateer and an English Fireship*, which turns out to be an English tart with the clap. The *Hippin Young Man*, or the *Hippin Betrayed* is illustrated with a charming but rather unsuitable woodcut of Adam and Eve.

The collection is a lesson to us all to keep an untidy desk, and never to throw away paper. It is also a lesson to us to play an instrument and sing songs in the evening instead of listening to pop on a box. The songs aren't so interesting today. But they may become so in 300 years.





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## SIGNPOST TO THE SUMMIT

Today's two-hour meeting between the Prime Minister and the Soviet leader at a windswept British air base has importance beyond the modesty of its time and place. It is a symbol and an opportunity, and the participants themselves make it so.

For Mr Gorbachov, where to break his journey to Washington was always a political decision. That he accepted Mrs Thatcher's invitation and chose Britain is a tribute to the Prime Minister's international stature and an acknowledgement of the relationship that has grown up between the two leaders in their past meetings.

Despite fundamental differences of belief, which are recognized by both, they seem to have developed a mutual respect for each other's leadership qualities and achievements which fosters the growth of personal and political trust. There will be a welcome lack of ceremony at Brize Norton today. This should further facilitate the sort of straight talking that is rare between world leaders.

Mr Gorbachov's interest in talking to Mrs Thatcher before his first visit to the United States is understandable. Washington is an arena in which she is an experienced performer. She is uniquely qualified to prime Mr Gorbachov for what is, without doubt, the most crucial encounter of his career. Success in Washington will enhance his authority everywhere. Anything less — on what is, after all, still hostile territory — could inflict long-term damage to his ambitions.

But Mrs Thatcher's special position also imposes special obligations. In meeting Mr Gorbachov, as he travels to the United States to sign the first disarmament agreement, Mrs Thatcher is not just easing the Soviet leader's passage. She is also representing the interests of the West of Britain, Europe and the United States separately and of the Atlantic alliance as a whole.

Already, in correspondence with President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher has tried to ensure that no last-minute hitch in the form of the Strategic Defence Initiative stops the agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces being signed. She has also made clear, to both potential signatories, her support for the agreement as it stands. It is equally beholden

on her, however, to clarify what the INF agreement may lead to and what it will not.

Mr Gorbachov must not proceed to Washington without understanding that the accord he is to sign is not the prelude to a de-nuclearized Europe, nor is it the first stage in the disengagement of the United States from Europe. It is rather the result of the acceptance by both sides that mutual security can be assured without one particular class of nuclear weapons, so long as both comply with agreed verification procedures.

Nor should he be encouraged to believe that the agreement precludes the continued search for security in other forms, such as strategic defence. His acknowledgement that the USSR was engaged in its own SDI research has made it less likely, but still possible, that SDI will be a complication.

The other illusion of which Mr Gorbachov must be relieved, if he still harbours it, is that the human rights element in East-West relations has been downgraded just because agreement has been reached on one, small, area of arms reduction. The Soviet side persists in arguing that weapons rather than people are the source of international tension. Mrs Thatcher should remind Mr Gorbachov that the opposite is true.

Mr Gorbachov — who will be confronted by demonstrators from many just causes during his stay in the United States — should be encouraged to reflect whether any INF agreement would have been possible without the gestures he has made so far on human rights. He must also be convinced that the holding of political prisoners, the curbs on emigration and the restrictions on church and other non-communist activities represent a continuing obstacle to better East-West relations. The trust he so obviously craves for his country and his system will never be his so long as he requires such supports to his power.

Whatever is said today, the brevity of the meeting and the lack of distraction should concentrate minds and advance the business which the two leaders have assured the world they can do together. The straighter the talking at Brize Norton, the better the auguries for Washington.

## THE BRIGHT SIDE OF COPENHAGEN

President Mitterrand suggested the adjournment of the EEC summit on the grounds that it was "undignified" to continue. Other participants — and their travelling press parties — have been equally despondent. But when historians consider Copenhagen 1987, they may well view it differently. There are signs amid the gloom that the European Community is edging towards an historic deal.

There is a familiar pattern for such progress. First comes the acrimony over a new proposal; then the tension is reduced; then comes a more productive atmosphere; eventually there is compromise. Even Chancellor Kohl, whose hard line against farm reform did much to prevent agreement, was moved to remark that at least all EEC leaders realized the need to act. Farm ministers have been allowed to block reform for too long.

Dairy and beef quotas agreed a year ago at the end of the British presidency — the beginning of real reform — have at last begun to reduce some of the surpluses. But spending on farm support and storage creeps inexorably up. It now stands at over £19 billion a year, compared with £9 billion in 1984. Copenhagen will be significant if it leads to recognition that the EEC has so far only reduced the rate at which surpluses pile up, rather than striking at the cause of the malaise: overproduction.

A majority of EEC states, including an initially sceptical Britain, seem now to have accepted the ideas for overhauling EEC finances advanced two years ago by M Delors and the Commission. These will now be the basis for discussion in February when EEC leaders meet again. The Prime Minister, who a year ago could barely be bothered to listen to M Delors, now endorses with enthusiasm the idea of "agri-budgetary stabilizers", automatic limits to output with severe price-cut penalties for

overproduction. The drawback of the Delors package, even as refined, is its complexity. Farm cutbacks are linked to other points: the use of a levy based on GNP as a "force resource" to supplement VAT receipts, customs duties and farm levies; increased structural funds for the Southern countries and depressed Northern regions; and changes in the way the British abatement is calculated and financed.

It is in a sense absurd that heads of government should have to decide whether an appropriate ceiling for cereals production is 155 million tonnes (Britain's maximum), 158 million tonnes (the Danish compromise) or 165 million tonnes (the German view). It was equally absurd to see EEC leaders arguing over whether the VAT element in the budget assessment should be 1.4 per cent in 1988, falling to 1 per cent in 1992, and if so at what rate the proposed GNP resource should rise as VAT income falls.

The fact remains, however, that specialist ministers have proved incapable of tackling the technicalities. Mrs Thatcher is right to insist that stabilizers are the answer to her consistent demand for farm spending curbs, and right also to insist on pinning down the detail. Because of its farming structure, Britain — the second largest net contributor to the budget — benefits less from the CAP than either France or Germany.

Copenhagen will have achieved a great deal if it impresses on all 12 leaders that imposing strict stabilizers to reduce the farm budget from two-thirds of the total budget (and rising) to something approaching a half is the priority. This would ease the budget burden all round, release funds for regional aid and technology research, and enable the EEC to devise a more sensible budgetary system.

## CONCESSIONS IN INDOCHINA

The first formal encounter between the two opposing sides in Cambodia has finished with unexpected success. Instead of the indefinite undertaking to meet again sometime somewhere, which had been thought the best possible outcome, Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen — prime minister of the Vietnamese-backed regime in Phnom Penh — gave a definite undertaking to meet again at the same place near Paris in January. They also published a joint communiqué which set a framework for something so unfamiliar as to stretch credibility: an eventual settlement in Cambodia and peace in Indochina.

The communiqué's proposal for an international conference to guarantee any settlement and the acceptance that any accord will involve representatives of all interested parties are evidence that both sides have given ground. The Hun Sen regime had previously wanted an internal agreement, without the Khmer Rouge but with Vietnam. Prince Sihanouk, who is backed by the Chinese, had refused to treat either with the present regime in Phnom Penh or with the Vietnamese.

In agreeing to meet Hun Sen at all, Sihanouk's initial concession is the greater (although he insisted, successfully, that the Prime Minister petition him for a meeting as a framework for something so unfamiliar as to stretch credibility: an eventual settlement in Cambodia and peace in Indochina).

Despite the concessions an agreement is still a distant prospect. The definition of a new Cambodian government ("democratic", "sovereign" and "non-aligned") permits diver-

gent meanings and could become the subject of profound disagreement in the future. The history of rivalry between the separate opposition groups and their guerrilla forces will make it difficult for them to reach agreement between themselves, even before any talks begin with the Vietnamese-backed regime.

That even this degree of progress has been made, however, illustrates the untenability of the present regime in Cambodia. If Hun Sen were firmly in power and if Vietnam were content to shore up his government indefinitely, there would be no reason for him to seek a meeting with Sihanouk. As it is, economic difficulties in Vietnam, coupled with Soviet reluctance to pour endless funds into Hanoi, appear to have pushed the Phnom Penh government to seek a change in its status.

If there has been real progress towards a settlement in Cambodia this weekend — and, given the history of the conflict, a degree of scepticism is in order — more is in prospect than peace in that one country. For Cambodia is at the heart of many current tensions in Asia, and even further afield.

For any settlement to be acceptable, there would have to be a full withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. This would enable Vietnam to be readmitted to the international community and Vietnam would qualify for foreign, including Western aid to assist its reconstruction and reform programme. A Vietnamese withdrawal would also eliminate one of the main impediments to better Sino-Soviet relations, and at the same time remove one of the outstanding regional issues from the East-West agenda.

## Architecture as it might be seen

From the Marquess of Anglesey  
Sir, Simon Jenkins (article, December 3) is right to supplement the Prince of Wales's strictures on the horrors of so much recent architecture by pointing out that politicians must share with architects some of the blame.

However, it would be wrong to suggest that the architects who perpetrated the horrors of recent decades were not absolutely heart and soul in the business. When I was a Royal Fine Art Commissioner in the late 1960s the leaders of the architectural establishment (all delightful, cultured men), who were my colleagues, were totally, one and all, enthusiastic believers in and propagators of the New Brutalism and the other awful aspects of the fashionable architecture of the day. The works of Raymond Erith and the views of John Betjeman were very politely dismissed with an indulgent laugh. There is little evidence that the politicians at any level demanded the inhuman frightfulness which the "experts" advised them to build.

There are, alas, still a number of luminaries of the architectural profession, such as those whose feeble reply to the Prince of Wales is that he "knows nothing about architecture", who will not come to terms with the fact that things are changing for the better now that the post-Modernists and others are trying to establish the fact that every architectural work has to be judged chiefly by those who must perform look upon and inhabit it and not solely by those who design and build it.

Yours etc,  
ANGLESEY,  
Pias Newydd, Llanfairpwll,  
Isle of Anglesey.

From Mr Peter Howard  
Sir, The Prince of Wales's lambasting of architects (report, December 2) is less than just. It is in the same vein as the hysteria about high-rise housing. He has only to look at some old newsreels to see with what pride his grandfather opened many new housing schemes and great public buildings.

"New" was the mood of post-war Britain. The councils of our war-scarred cities vied with each other to "clear the slums". In the prevailing enthusiasm, many of the Prince's little squares and streets were swept away, probably wrongly, but hindsight is very easy. None the less, much of it was rationalized, sub-standard insanitary accommodation and needed to go.

Money was the other problem; every financial controller demanded "cost-effectiveness" — in other words, the maximum building for the minimum cost, using the cheapest materials.

One wonders what the City of

London would have been like if Wren's great plan conceived after the fire had been adopted. Splendid avenues, fine squares and great vistas, it could have been one of the most striking cities of Europe. Alas, it was turned down, by Charles II. Even kings get it wrong — and perhaps princes.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HOWARD,  
Gaytons,  
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)  
Sir, The fine and courageous speech of the Prince of Wales at the Mansion House on Monday gives heart to all of us of his generation who have long wished to see something done to correct the blatant mistakes all over the country — including in my constituency in Portsmouth — which were visited on us with such condescension and arrogance by the architectural and planning establishments of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. We not only want something done about what is already there, but for the law to be changed to reduce the chances of allowing it to happen in the future.

Apart from the inadequacies in our planning laws the Prince mentions, one of the most scandalous is that which allows councils, as planning authorities, to grant themselves planning permission. This is done either to enhance the value of their own property before sale or for their own developments, however inappropriate. It is done even though they would have refused similar plans if private persons had sought permission.

That must change. Not only should county councils have no planning powers whatsoever, but every district-level planning authority should be able to give itself planning permission only in the knowledge that if a number of electors, say a minimum of 20, object, the authority is subject to the same process of appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment as that faced by anyone else.

I hope very much our Parliament will have an opportunity to change the law in these matters. The time is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MARTIN,  
House of Commons,  
December 2.

From Mr David Thompson  
Sir, Since Mammam has been allowed to dictate the architectural style of most of the City of London, surely it is only fair that God should be given precedence in Paternoster Square.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID THOMPSON,  
High Birches, 21 Wood Ride,  
Peters Wood, Kent,  
December 4.

Uganda and the Sudan was in fact determined by a search for the economic watershed between trade routes based on the Nile and the Indian Ocean. A Nilotic state situated astride this watershed would be doomed to perpetual pauperdom.

But above all other considerations today is that to think with one boundary for ethnic reasons is to invite 1,000 more secessionist and irredentist claims in respect of the other boundaries of the continent.

The British could have made it much easier than they did for southern and northern Uganda to live together. To put most of the economic and educational development into the south and most of the military training into the north was not good policy. It is this imbalance which has bedeviled Uganda since it was born.

Africa needs to attend to its minorities rather than to its frontiers.

Yours faithfully,  
ROLAND OLIVER,  
Frishton Woodhouse,  
Net Newbury, Berkshire.

## Tunnel safety

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen

Sir, Whatever the precise cause of the King's Cross Underground tragedy, two factors are beyond dispute — first, that the effects of the fire and smoke were made worse by the fact that it occurred underground; second, that the undoubted heroism of the rescue services could not compensate for the difficulty in their reaching passengers trapped in such an environment, albeit only a few hundred yards from one of London's busiest thoroughfares.

Have the supporters of the Channel tunnel considered what may happen if a fire broke out in the tunnel, 10 miles from the coast of Britain or France?

The tunnel's backers may also care to reflect on a statement by Eurotunnel's technical director, Colin Kirkland, on May 25 in Brussels, that passengers would be allowed to travel with their ve-

hicles in the tunnel, as this would be "safer".

They may also wish to ponder on both the advice of the Fire Brigades Union and accepted practice on passenger ferries, where passengers are expressly prohibited from going anywhere near their vehicles once a vessel has set sail. Both fire safety professionals and ferry crews realise that the combination of a confined space, full petrol tanks and a carelessly discarded cigarette end can mean disaster.

In the light of the terrible scenes at King's Cross, will Eurotunnel tell the public:

1. If they still plan to allow passengers to travel with their vehicles?  
2. Exactly what plans they have for the speedy evacuation of passengers and train crews in the event of such a fire breaking out?

Yours faithfully,  
SAM MCCLUSKIE,  
General Secretary,  
National Union of Seamen,  
Maritime House, Old Town, SW4.

## Indirect mail

From Mr John Thornber

Sir, In the year 1795, a letter containing a £1 note of the British Linen Co's Bank was addressed by one of my forebears in Inverness to a Private John MacDonald of the 78th Regiment, then in England. Before the letter arrived at its destination, however, MacDonald sailed for India, and the letter followed him. From India it pursued him along the various routes of his regiment and came back to Inverness 10 years later.

Shortly before then MacDonald had come home and died near Inverness. There was therefore no

claimant for the letter and it was returned to the General Post Office. From that office it was again sent after the 78th Regiment and followed it; in 1824 it was sent back after MacDonald to Inverness, still containing the identical £1 note and handed back to the sender.

Dr J. L. Crosby, Co Durham (November 23), take heart; your packets, with contents, now three months overdue may not yet be delivered!

Yours faithfully,  
JAIN THORNER,  
Knock House, Morvern,  
Oban, Argyll.

## Integrity in the selection for sees

From the Secretary to the Crown Appointments Commission

Sir, Those who serve as members of the Crown Appointments Commission undertake to maintain confidentiality about its proceedings and it is reasonable to assume, therefore, that the author of the preface to *Crockford's* 1987-88 edition (reports, December 3, 4) has not been a member. Within the demands of that undertaking, I would like to correct one or two misleading impressions the preface may have given.

First, the names that are considered at meetings of the commission reach it through the secretary. The only names presented are given to him by those who are members of the commission for the particular vacant see, i.e., the six central members (three clergy, three lay) elected by the General Synod, the two archbishops, the Prime Minister and the archbishops' appointments secretaries.

Second, the members of the commission are invited to submit names in two categories, mandatory and discretionary: those submitted mandatorily are, as the word suggests, automatically put to the commission; the others are included at the sole discretion of the two appointments secretaries. At all meetings of the commission mandatory names form by far the greater part of those under consideration. All members of the commission have equal opportunity to submit names and the members of the commission do

not know who submitted which names.

Third, the selection of the names to be submitted to the Prime Minister and their ranking in order of precedence is carried out by secret ballot.

Fourth, the regulations under which the commission operates as laid down by General Synod require the chairman of the meeting (the archbishop in whose province the vacancy has arisen) to satisfy himself that the result of the voting fairly represents the views of the diocesan members. The archbishops are scrupulous in their observation of this requirement.

The author of the preface comments on the secrecy surrounding the commission's activities. It is worth pointing out that the main reason for this is to protect the integrity of the commission's processes from outside influence and to establish a bond of trust that will secure the frankness in discussion essential to its work.

Yours sincerely,  
HECTOR McLEAN,  
Archbishop's Secretary for Appointments,  
Fielders House,  
Little College Street,  
Westminster, SW1,  
December 4.

## ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 7 1917

Even while our Special Correspondent (James David Bourchier) was talking with Leon Trotsky, Germany was concluding an agreement for suspension of hostilities. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed on March 3, 1918. Trotsky (1879-1940) left Russia in 1929. He was assassinated in Mexico in 1940.

## TROTSKY'S IDEA OF PEACE.

THEORY IN TOUCH WITH REALITY

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

(From our Special Correspondent)

PETROGRAD, Dec. 6  
Trotsky, in the further course of my conversation with him [reported in *The Times* of yesterday] repudiated all idea of negotiating for the advantage of the Kaiser or of German Imperialism. In reply to the question whether the "decisions" of "the amnesties" could be applied rigorously in the case of Turkey, who has long misgoverned alien races such as the Armenians and Arabs, Trotsky declared himself in favour of the idea of creating independent States, or a confederation of States. He approved of the settlement of Jews in Palestine, but objected to appropriations of territory there by foreign Powers. He agreed, however, with the suggestion that Greece might lawfully claim as kindred the population of the Asiatic coast, but refrained from replying when I observed that the British occupation of Baghdad had been imposed by the necessity of preventing its seizure by another Power. He showed me a telegram stating that some of the Mongolian tribes had asked for the protection of the new Russian "Government", and said that he had replied that he considered it a humiliation for any nation to ask protection of another, but that he was ready to accord them support.

Approaching the delicate question of the repatriation of Russians interned in England, Trotsky said that the People's Commissariat, considering the attitude of the British Government not conducive to refraining from meeting the request for the repatriation of these persons, decided to refuse permission for British subjects to leave Russia.

When I was taking my leave, Trotsky took occasion to express his profound admiration for the British nation, its love of liberty and its illustrious history, and, above all, its literature.

"COMMUNAL PEACE IF POSSIBLE."

December 4  
The keynote of Trotsky's programme is the belief that the whole European proletariat will insist within the next few weeks upon the conclusion of a general peace. His statements, so emphatically repeated, that the "Government" repudiates the idea of a separate peace and intends to negotiate a general peace in concert with the Allies, indicate an illusion of the near approach of a sudden and simultaneous outbreak of pacifism before which all Thrones, Principalities, and Powers must yield. Whether the situation is ripe for such a development is a question which scarcely suggests itself to politicians, who, having spent their lives in a dreamland of idealism, now find themselves confronted with problems of practical statesmanship.

What will happen if the expected revolutionary cataclysm fails to take place Trotsky refrained from stating; but the Ministerial *Pravda* supplies an answer.

We will [it says] make a general peace, if possible; if not, a separate peace.

Unhappily there are only too good grounds for corroborating Trotsky's statement with regard to the existence of a feeling of resentment against British realists in this country.

## Sexual morality

From the Reverend Tony Highton

Sir, The Bishop of St Albans (November 26) seems to be labouring under the misapprehension that all is well in the Church of England with respect to discipline of immoral clergy. The bishops, he feels, are all fulfilling their duties in this respect. He obviously is unaware that most of the Church do not agree with him.

He feels the amendment in the General Synod debate on my private member's motion on sexuality, calling for appropriate Church discipline, was "imperfect" (a term which some have felt to be rather arrogant).

The truth is that 50 per cent (less 13 votes) of the Synod voted for that amendment — including five bishops. Were they all imperious? Some bishops are grasping the nettle of discipline, but others are manifestly failing. It would be most unhelpful if the Bishop of St Albans's letter encouraged complacency on the bench of bishops.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY HIGHTON,  
The Rectory, Hawkwell,  
Hockley, Essex.

## Chapels in Changi

From Mr David Arkush

Sir, The interesting article in Tuesday's *Times* (Spectrum 2, December 1) concerning the chapels built by prisoners of war in Changi reminds me that there was also a synagogue there. The earliest Jewish services were held in the area occupied by the 16th Division, but in June, 1942, I organised a service for the whole of Changi in the bombed camp cinema in the hospital area. Shortly afterwards I was sent to Thailand as part of the advance party for the building of the Burma-Siam Railway, but I believe services continued there until mid-1943, when most of the remaining POWs in Changi were sent to Thailand.

After the completion of the railway at the end of 1943, many of the surviving prisoners were returned to Changi. Fortunately services were held in the YMCA hut in Changi and in August, 1944, a small synagogue holding 50 people was built by the Royal Engineers in Changi Jail, where most of the POWs were then held. This was done through the help of the Assistant Chaplain-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Bryan.

Services were conducted by laymen and also by Pte Lisser, of the Dutch Army, a cantor in Java, who died on the railway; and later by Pte Chaim Nussbaum, of the Dutch Army, now a rabbi in Canada. This synagogue, named Obel Jacob (the Tent of Jacob), was a centre for most of the Jewish POWs, who considered it a haven of quiet and rest amid the noise of the overcrowded jail.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID ARKUSH,  
16 Crooked Ux, N3.

## Burdens of age

From Mr Ron Collins

Sir, May I offer the following consideration to your correspondent, Mr Mindel (November 25) after the loss of his seat to a downy young man on the Underground. It is not a moral, merely a civilised reminder.

A male is as good as a miss. Yours faithfully,  
RON COLLINS,  
Hubbards Hall, Old Harlow, Essex.

## Knowing one's place

From Mr J. S. M. Sheldon

Sir, Having failed dismally to guess the correct definitions of most of the words appearing in your new Word-Watching game, I am concerned lest these words start to migrate to the left and end up in the Crossword Puzzle.

I should be greatly obliged, Sir, if you would confirm that such is not your intention.

Yours apprehensively,  
JOHN S. M. SHELDON,  
18 Meadow, Epsom, Surrey.











## THE ARTS

## Trying to act natural

The salt pans of an evaporated lake in the Kalahari desert provide a surprisingly fertile habitat for such Darwinian paradigms as the sand lizard, the bat-eared fox and the wildlife cameraman. This last species, a shy and unobtrusive creature, gains most of his nourishment when torrential rains attract an entire bestiary to what has become the largest oasis in Africa.

## TELEVISION

The glittering images of *Okavango - Jewel of the Kalahari* (BBC2, Saturday) were a tribute to the filmmaker Mike Rosenberg's adaptation to hostile conditions; the extraordinarily lush commentary, however, did not seem earmarked for survival. In the tones of a classic National Geographic caption, the voice-over drew our attention to a pair of ostriches "busy with their passion for producing yet more ostriches".

This involved the male executing a sort of folkloric dance before sitting plumply on the female's back while emitting vacuum-cleaner noises. One felt that something might have been made of the appropriate soundtrack.

A superior *Everyman* (BBC1, yesterday) reported on the controversy over the memory of Edith Stein, the Jewish-born Carmelite nun who died at Birkenau. If the Vatican intended her beatification as a specific signal from one religion to another, the plan has backfired badly.

Reflecting their age-old horror of Christian conversion, Jewish sensibilities have been outraged that a "turncoat" should become a Catholic saint. And, since Stein did not actively seek death as a witness to her new faith, how can she be termed a martyr?

The opposing points of view seemed little more than a storm in a chalice until the camera showed what the Poles have done to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where a Roman Catholic church has been established in the former Gestapo headquarters.

A colossal wooden cross now looms over the railway ramp which greeted the "resettled" Jews (and, of course, Christians), while some distance off - a single Star of David stands shrouded by yet more crosses. Small wonder the Vatican stands accused of "hijacking" the Holocaust.

Perhaps the most visible problem is that, despite its long history of persecution, the Jewish faith has not invented a universally recognized symbol of suffering. In a design-conscious age, such things matter.

Martin Cropper

Paul Moor reports on how the United States is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Eugene O'Neill



Eugene O'Neill: America's Nobel Prize-winning playwright

## Dramatic occasion

Eugene O'Neill, the most monumental of American playwrights and the only one thus far to win a Nobel Prize, once described San Francisco as his favourite city. Between 1937 and 1944, in a hillside house in Contra Costa County, across the bay, about 35 miles east of San Francisco, he wrote his five last plays, including at least two of his greatest: *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Hughie*, *A Touch of the Poet*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. October 16, 1988, will bring the hundredth anniversary of his birth, in a New York hotel room, but the O'Neill centenary season has already begun hereabouts in earnest.

The Library of America, in an endeavour to publish this country's leading writers' complete works, will bring out a three-volume set of the plays, edited by Travis Bogard, a leading O'Neill scholar at the University of California in Berkeley. Other publications include a selection of letters and *The Unknown O'Neill*, which will contain the eight-act version of *Marco Millions* and another play hitherto unperformed and unpublished.

Across the continent, in Connecticut, O'Neill's boyhood home the Yale Rep has ambitious plans: a cast headed by Colleen Dewhurst and Jason Robards, both eminent O'Neill specialists, will play *Ah, Wilderness!* and *Long Day's Journey*. In the first - the solitary comedy among O'Neill's five dozen plays - the author idealised, wistfully, wishfully, through rose-coloured glasses, his own family constellation; in the latter play, he depicted the hideous reality of what that family did in fact become. During the two years he worked on *Journey*, O'Neill's wife, the actress Carlotta Monterey, feared more than once that it would drive him mad.

The formal presentation of the Nobel Prize to O'Neill took place not in Stockholm but in a hospital room in Oakland - his wife's birthplace - just across the bay from San Francisco, during a two-month recuperation from an appendectomy and other illness. The Nobel benefaction enabled the O'Neills to buy 158 acres on the outskirts of Danville (pop 7,000); in his diary the playwright

described the plot as a "beautiful place with one of the finest views ever seen". Since O'Neill, his whole life long, had unsuccessfully sought a place to live where he could swim in the sea every day of the year, their plans for what they called Tao House included a pool on the slope below.

When it comes to this country's artists, official authorities tend to manifest little sense of history. Birthplaces and such fall within the bailiwick of the National Park Department, located in Washington, which until recently had designated as "National Historic Sites" the homes of only three writers: Longfellow, Poe and Sandburg. Under irresistible pressure from a determined "group of ladies and a few gentlemen" in and around Danville, who organized the O'Neill Foundation and persuaded the O'Neills' successors in Tao House to part with it, the Park Department has now added Tao House to its list.

Tao House provides edifying evidence of the importance of animals in O'Neills' melancholy, misanthropic life. The one time

able-bodied seaman kept chickens, and they meant so much to him that he had a brick bench built for no apparent purpose except to observe them, particularly one rooster he admiringly named Sugar Ray Robinson.

He and his wife buried Blenheim Silverdene Emblem, their English-born Dalmatian, under an imposing granite tombstone here with the final engraved line "Sleep in Peace Faithful Friend" Carlotta, in her diary, quoted her husband as saying, "Since Blenheim died, everything has gone wrong...all this is the end of us...I won't be able to work any more - and when I can't work I'll die...We sat quietly in the firelight and wept."

In cold, actual fact, O'Neill indeed no longer could work. Shortly before his death, in a Boston hotel in 1953, he looked back on his life and said, "God damn it - born in a hotel room, died in a hotel room..." But of Tao House, the end of 1940, he had written Carlotta a little poem: "Here / Is home / Is peace / Is quiet."

## The mad are always with us

## THEATRE

Theatre Co-Op  
Wilkie House,  
Edinburgh

In John Clifford's latest play *How Like An Angel* we are all in the madhouse. The audience sit in the middle of the playing area, which represents the ward of a long-stay mental hospital, on randomly arranged single chairs. The play ebbs and flows around our feet, we are ministered to by the nurses, talked to by the other inmates, bumped into, pushed around; it is most disconcerting. It is also exactly what is needed to prevent us from sliding away still completely disengaged from the ugly facts which are the substance of the play, the hopelessness of the patients, the casual dehumanising of the system.

Mr Clifford himself spent some time as a student nurse in just such an institution and the principal character, Bill, shares his agonised but important incomprehension at the system in general and the use and effects of electric shock therapy in particular. Graham de Banzie gives a first class performance which is full of ordinariness, perhaps the most difficult of all to bring off successfully, especially when you are surrounded by three other characters who are certainly insane. Theatre Co-Op's production, directed by Allan Sharpe, is suitably low key and unsentimental.

So, a worthwhile production of a more than adequate play by a writer who now arouses much expectation after early successes like *Losing Venice*. In fact, it is rather more than that. In the first place, unlike Mr Clifford's other work for the stage, it is rooted in contemporary reality; the other plays depend on an element of fantasy and historical distancing. There is plenty of encouraging evidence here that he can write just as fluently in either mode.

Even more extraordinary is the way in which this premiere production has had to be mounted, a "profit-sharing" arrangement with no grant aid or sponsorship of any kind where neither actor nor crew nor writer receive any payment for their work. *How Like An Angel* is the last in a series of three new plays mounted by Theatre Co-Op in this way through the autumn, such is the desperate shortage of opportunity for full-scale productions of new writing in Scotland.

Of the other two plays, Ann Downie's *Jelly Babies*, originally written for television 12 years ago, deals with abortion and infertility. The play has suffered from being extended to fill an evening in the theatre but a bustling and attractive performance from Maureen Carr as Betty, on her fourth miscarriage but still indomitable, and some sappy dialogue left one wishing that the rest of the cast had been able to rise to the same level.

Alistair Campsie's *Dundas: or How They Murdered Robert Burns* is a one-man piece in which Henry Dundas, the then Secretary of State for Scotland, recalls how by elaborate scheming he saw to it that Robert Burns, the anti-establishment figure who very nearly won over the establishment, met an early and discredited death. I found it hard to believe, if Dundas had really been capable of such Byzantine intrigue, that he would have been the penitent drunken brawler portrayed by Stewart Preston, but the responsibility for that may lie with the director Bryan Esley rather than the writer.

Robert Dawson  
Scott

## Running away with the fairies

Midnight Court  
Jacob Street Studio

This converted dog biscuit factory in Docklands is the kind of venue where you might expect to see, say, a troupe of Catalan artists than an Irish female fairy court - but then where would you expect to see an Irish female fairy court?

The setting of Brian Merriman's 18th-century Gaelic poem, adapted by Mary McGuckian, is in fact the Magh Greine valley on the shores of Lough Greine, although the suggestions of misty Celtic romance are

misleading. Merriman, it turns out, was a man of the Enlightenment rather than the twilight, a mathematician who turned poet to write this spirited defence of female sexuality.

That has been a bold and unusual thing for a man to do in most ages, not least I would imagine in 18th century Ireland. Merriman may have paid a heavy price for it: he ended his days in the Puritan city of Limerick.

All praise to him then, but the worth and interest of the poem unfortunately do not, in spite of imaginative staging and some admirable, lively

performing, make for compelling drama.

Merriman, a self-deprecating character it would seem, gives himself the most ungrateful role as the young poet who becomes chief defendant for the cries of his sex at the court of the Sidhe (female fairies), policed by a Medusa-like Bailiff (the excellent Nora Connolly) and presided over by the jolly regal Aibheall, convincingly played by Greer Haskell sporting what looks like a crown of cardinals.

Merriman (Alan Radcliffe) spends much of the time speechlessly looking on while the witnesses for the prosecution gleefully (and it must be

said rather repetitively) itemise their case.

Deirdra Morris and Mary Ann O'Donoghue are nicely contrasted, and uninhibitedly sexual, as these two defenders of their sex, but having been promised chapter and verse by Aibheall, I was somewhat disappointed by the lack of specificity in their complaints.

Men in Ireland, it seems, are disinclined to propagate and the nation is decaying as a result. The only concrete proposal is the immediate lifting of the Church's imposition of celibacy on priests.

Harry Eyres



Looking really in love: Bryony Brind, the best Giselle yet

## Tall tales retold

## DANCE

Giselle  
Covent Garden

Bryony Brind has had to wait a long time for her first Giselle although other classic roles came early in her career. Presumably she was thought unsuited because of a general impression that tall girls are unsuited to romantic roles. Well, if so, she has certainly proved us all wrong. What first made me aware that we were watching something spe-

cial was simply the way she looked at Albrecht (Jay Jolley) during their first meeting: looked at him and kept on looking. Her attentiveness, coupled with the expression in her eyes and her whole bearing, suddenly brought home to me how long it is since we saw a Giselle who really looked in love.

That proved to be characteristic of a performance based firmly on an understanding of the character and her situation, also of the ballet's style. Her mad scene for instance, remained well within the stylisation imposed by the choreography, but succeeded in conveying a clear development from a quiet beginning, as if stunned by what had happened, into a great outburst of grief and frustration at the end.

The other important quality of Brind's dancing was the romantic feeling shown in the gently curved lines of her poses. Altogether, Brind proved to be the best Giselle I have yet seen in this production.

John Percival

David Sinclair

## Still in search of solid citizens

## RADIO

It may take a year, it may take two, for *Citizens* to find a firm place in the nation's heart. Or not, as the case may be. But in five weeks it has at least had a chance to show its paces. For me it remains about as attractive as when it began - no more and maybe even marginally less, now the novelty has worn off.

I see that after one week I was happy to report that it was not a sort of urban *Archers*, but now I want to qualify that happiness. *Citizens*, you might say, starts out with a very serious disadvantage for any true-born Briton that it has nothing to do with the country. For it is certainly British, or at least the English

passion for country life - if only in imagination - which has helped Ambridge to take such a lasting hold.

And yet other soaps, both radio and television, have woven just as great a spell with nary a glimpse of a green field. There are various methods of hooking listeners, but one of them, an essential and fundamental to the *Archers*, is so far not too evident around Limerick Road. It is the need to introduce a range of major characters who span all ages from the cradle to the grave, as well as many strata of society.

In little William there's a cradle representative, but otherwise the serial to date is very strongly focussed on its group of up and coming young things. That's understandable, of course: they will be the core of it, however long it runs and

they have got to be established. Besides, one object of the whole enterprise is to give their real-life contemporaries something to identify with and to recruit them to Radio 4. But I think if *Citizens* is to prosper in the long term, it will have to spread the generation and social net. It strikes me that Simon Brett's *After Henry*, which has inevitably become a bit of a yardstick by which to judge domestic drama, managed to cover the preoccupations of three generations and to take a glance at those of the gay minority with only four on-going characters and in only half an hour a week.

The Brett yardstick might well be applied to Up The Garden Path (Radio 4, Saturdays, repeating Wednesdays), Sue Limb's adaptation

of her own novel about the trials of Izzy (Imelda Staunton) in love and war. She divides her time between trying to run an affair with a married man and attempting to subjugate her class of rowdies at the local comprehensive. The dialogue is lively, but not as witty as Brett's, which drew its strength from fine shaping and understatement.

It is nearer farce than comedy and indeed Ms Limb has underlined this by following the prescription of - I think - the master Feydeau. He advised that any characters who in real life ought in no circumstances to meet, must in farce immediately be brought face to face.

Radio 3's A Long Fidelity (Tuesday) originated on French radio and Francoise Campo-Timal's script had been evocatively turned into English by the accomplished Barbara Bray. It was an account of the childhood of a girl in what used to be French Indo-China, now Vietnam, set in the years of the Second World War and immediately afterwards. Returned to France, the girl recalls it as home and as the scene of several frightful cruelties, but is deeply wounded when a Vietnamese woman who comes as teacher to her chilly convent school, will not even speak to her.

And it is the influence of the cruelties she witnessed which finally drives her to settle accounts with the silent teacher in a way just as savage which, though not spelt out, is easy enough to imagine. With its refrain of the songs the child's Vietnamese nurse once sang to her and with Cheryl Campbell's heart-felt performance, this was a truly haunting piece of work.

David Wade

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## MONDAY PAGE

# The father's dilemma

Which should a man put first, career or family? Sir John Harvey-Jones chose the latter but still reached the top. He talks to Bryan Appleyard of parenthood's pains and pleasures

Sir John Harvey-Jones became chairman of ICI as a consequence of his daughter, Gaby, contracting polio. It was a crisis in his life that led directly to his abandoning a career in naval intelligence. He took a lowly position in the chemicals company hoping for no more than a straightforward nine-to-five job. Thirty years later he admits that he got that wrong.

Starting as a Work Study Officer at the company's Wilton plant, he rose to become chairman of Britain's biggest industrial enterprise. He presided over the transformation of the company from an imperial dinosaur to become our first manufacturing company to make more than £1 billion profit.

In the process he overthrew the civil service image of ICI and became a kind of industrial rock star, with his leonine mane and loud kipper-ties. But, throughout, he kept his private life to himself. Neither Gaby nor his wife, Betty, ever shared his harrowing events of 30 years ago. But in retirement the tension between the public and the private man has been relaxed.

The Harvey-Joneses live in a 13th-century manor house near Ross-on-Wye. Gaby, who wears calipers and frequently has to resort to a wheelchair, occupies a self-contained flat and office from which she runs her father's range of retirement jobs. Abigail, Gaby's 15-year-old daughter from a marriage now ended, also lives with them.

In 1955, in the weeks before Gaby's fourth birthday, they were living in a small flat in Sydenham. Harvey-Jones was a lieutenant-

**'If Gaby hadn't had polio I would certainly have stayed in the Navy'**

commander working in Admiralty Intelligence in Whitehall. He had been in the Navy since starting at Dartmouth at the age of 13. For the family his latest role was a slight improvement, in that he was normally in the country, though he frequently worked late.

In late summer of that year, Gaby seemed to have contracted a heavy cold. "On about the fourth day of this," recalled Betty, "I rang our doctor and said I was worried. He said to see how she was over the next few hours and then ring back. About three in the morning I heard the most awful thump. I rushed into her room and she was lying on the floor — not crying."

On the phone the next morning their doctor told them to wrap her up and take her to the local hospital. There she had a lumber puncture which confirmed polio, and she was sent by ambulance to an isolation hospital at Hither Green.

"She was taken out of the ambulance," said Betty, "and wrapped up like a parcel so she couldn't get her hands out. This was 10 days before her fourth birthday; she was terrified." Her parents were only allowed to see her for five minutes and then forced to leave. They could still hear her screams at the main gate of the hospital.

The law said Gaby had to be kept in isolation for 28 days. There was no known treatment and no way of knowing how far the disease would progress — visiting was restricted to half an hour three days a week.

The first week of the disease is the most critical. The virus has a limited life in the body but its rate of



A family business: Sir John Harvey-Jones and his wife Betty, with Gaby, at home in Ross-on-Wye

spread is unpredictable. In Gaby it had spread through one leg, started on the other and had moved into her stomach muscles. It was close to reaching her heart and lungs, and killing her.

The Dickensian horrors at the hospital were being matched by the callous arrogance of Harvey-Jones's employers. "It's difficult to imagine now," he said, "but I was in charge of a secret operation at that time and there was only one other person cleared to deal with it. We were both working round the clock that week and there was no way that they were going to let me go."

Harvey-Jones regrets them to this day. "I do not believe that any organization that cares for its employees would have behaved in that way. I know when I joined the Navy that it was supposed to be the only thing that mattered in your life, but I still believe that in that situation I should have been released or they could have produced a car for me. But they just said 'Sorry, you know what the situation is.' They should have found a way.

**'I was a worrier... I've been a better grandfather than I was a father'**

"If Gaby hadn't had polio I would certainly have stayed in the Navy. I would have been scared stiff of taking the plunge. I was accustomed to getting a totally inadequate pay packet every month and, if you get that, you believe you can't be fired, and if you've been in the service since the age of 12 it becomes unthinkable to leave."

Meanwhile, after the statutory 28 days, they forcibly removed Gaby from Hither Green. She was kept at home for a few weeks and then went to Great Ormond Street. She was to spend months at that hospital's country establishment at Tadworth. They were then told that her condition would get no better and,

in mid-1956, Harvey-Jones left the Navy to join ICI. He was to work at Wilton, on Teesside. He was promoted steadily, and in 1963 he became managing director of the petrochemicals division. This meant travel and he had to break a resolution to spend more time at home.

"I think it was about that period that I got bitten by ambition and I regretted it. I've always thought I've done my best work when I haven't been ambitious. I've always been ambitious to do the job to the best of my ability — I'm very vain and I need to feel I'm performing well. But I had a short period when I became extremely ambitious."

"I think you do the job best if you are always prepared to hazard the job for what you think is right. Don't get me wrong, I'm a coward. But unless you actually see the way you do the job as the primary thing, you'll be no good."

From 1963 until 1971, Gaby and Betty found themselves more or less on their own as he rose through the ranks. Then, suddenly, Gaby an-

nounced she was marrying the son of a friend of the family and he was shocked into realizing how far away he had drifted. It was a shock partly because the childhood traumas at Hither Green had made Gaby desperately insecure. It seemed unthinkable that she should leave the family.

But she did manage to leave to set up an antiques business with her husband in Scarborough. Harvey-Jones reorganized his life again to spend more time at home. Ten years later Gaby was to announce that her marriage was over and, within six weeks, they were reorganizing around her again. They moved to a larger house so that she and Abigail could live with them. Meanwhile the promotion continued. In 1973 they moved back to London when he was more or less forced to join the main board and, in April 1982, he became chairman.

"He took that job almost against himself," said Gaby. In many respects it was also against the family. Betty had once sworn she would never marry a businessman and, in addition, she is a keen organic gardener and environmentalist who would constantly fret about what ICI was up to. She only ever used one ICI product in the garden — Path Clear — to get rid of some weeds.

At his retirement Harvey-Jones was offered no less than 460 jobs, each of which promised to take up no more than a few hours a year. He accepted a handful of posts, including Chancellor of Bradford University and director of *The Economist*. British Telecom he turned down.

**'I was petrified of my daughter. I suppose most fathers are'**

Gaby logs his movements with the aid of a battery of answering machines, faxes, computers and a willful determination to rush painfully to the phone every time it rings. The affection between the three of them is almost tangible, as is the father's sad conviction that he has, in the past, failed.

"I was a good provider," he conceded, "and a worrier. But I've been a better grandfather than I was a father." He blames it on the repression of his almost exclusively male upbringing — "I was an only child, never brought up with other kids. I never knew any women or girls of my own age. I was gauche in the extreme, painfully shy, heavily sex-obsessed and very uncertain about myself. I was absolutely petrified of my daughter. I suppose most men are."

Like many men of his type and generation, his own masculine self-consciousness gets in the way of his compassion. He is, for example, currently involved with a number of mental health charities. But he knows he cannot be directly concerned with sufferers — "I haven't got the sheer Christian stickability. I'm embarrassed with people and I hate myself for it."

Gaby's polio turned him into one of the most successful industrialists of his generation. But it was Gaby who made him love himself. "When she was born," he said, "I thought if I picked her up she would break..."

Then, at Hither Green, with perfect and crushing irony, she nearly did.

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## TALKBACK

## Taught processes

Our recent article headlined "Schooled for success" (Wednesday Page, November 25), in which we reflected the views of three pupils who switched from state to private schools, has attracted an impassioned correspondence.

Most of the letters have come from people at, or connected with, Gurnley House Convent School for Girls, a comprehensive in Isleworth, Middlesex, which the Boyle twins, whose views we reported, left in favour of Lady Eleanor Holmes, a local private school.

From Amanda Gleeson and 11 other pupils, Gurnley House Convent School, Isleworth, Middlesex: We feel your article was sadly lacking in factual detail and needs much clarification. It was based upon statements made by just two ex-pupils condemning the school in general and the sixth form, of which they had no first hand experience.

The implication that Gurnley suffered extensive disruption during the teachers' strikes is unfounded. Over a period of two and half years, only one and a half days were lost and exam classes were never affected. Neither is there uncertainty as to the future of the sixth form, which presently has approximately 170 pupils.

Tutor groups in the sixth form have between 10 and 15 pupils, which allows for much individual attention and personal care. We are given every possible assistance in choosing our future careers including extensive advice on how to complete UCCA forms.

Neither of the Boyle twins could possibly question the generosity and dedication of the staff at Gurnley. The fact that both girls attained nine O levels is an indication of the high academic standards for which Gurnley is renowned.

From David Murphy, Chairman of the Governors, Gurnley House Convent School

I am surprised that on the basis of the less than informed opinions of two past pupils, a paper of your quality should carry an account alleging disruption caused by the teachers' strikes and uncertainty over the future of the sixth form without ensuring that your reporter had made some attempt to check on her facts with the school.

Some maintained schools may well be struggling against very great odds: so may some independent schools, but we readers will never be sure which is which if we do not perceive you to be adhering to

basic standards, both in journalism and politeness.

From Dr Gillian Barnes, Palewell Park, East Sheen, London SW14

I have had two daughters at Gurnley House. One is 16 and has recently passed eight O levels. As far as she is concerned, the classes are small, the girls are friendly, the staff are caring, they help with the UCCA forms, have discussions about current affairs, and there are plenty of opportunities for sport and other activities too numerous to mention. Indeed, it is for all this that she chose to stay on at the school. We have had our dissatisfactions with the school, but most schools have their problems. Both my daughters have been very happy at the school, and are developing well. Some of this, at least, is to the credit of Gurnley House.

From Mrs Peggy Montgomery, Richmond Road, Twickenham, Middlesex

As the Librarian of Gurnley House Convent School, I bitterly resent the current gutter-press obsession with state schools' shortcomings. I particularly resent the unjustified slur on the school library, over which I preside: we educate a cross-section of young female humanity — some clever, some not so clever. We send out into the world generous, inquiring, reading, questioning minds — and as a parent as well as a librarian, I'd settle for that.

From Kate Fielder, Burdenshott Avenue, Richmond, Surrey

I, like the Boyle twins, attended Gurnley House school from first to fifth year. I, like them, obtained nine good O levels. I, however, stayed on at Gurnley for A levels. What the Boyles do not take into account is that they are comparing the sixth form of Lady Eleanor Holmes with the fifth form of Gurnley House.

I have not heard rumours about the future of Gurnley's sixth form. Indeed, since it has joined in a consortium with two other schools, it is able to provide a much wider choice in the A level curriculum as well as a very popular one-year commercial course.

I spent much of my free time in Gurnley's library. If the Boyles found it noisy it is perhaps because of their own lack of concentration, or perhaps because as fifth-years they would only have the use of the main body of the library during their lunch hour, along with the rest of the school. Had they gone on to the sixth form, they would have had the use of the private study area.

## Schooled for success

A photograph in your article which shows a girl who has been severely disabled, but who has achieved great success, is a very good example of the success that can be achieved by the right education.

## Girls' talk

Before the year is out, let us raise a hip-stick-stained glass of flat champagne to the woman who greatly enriched the last 12 months. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the Bimbo. Without her, Gary Hart would still be driving himself into the ground in pursuit of political glory and Sir Ralph Halpern would be regarded as yet another boring businessman.

I had always thought that a Bimbo was easy to identify: she is young and blonde and covered with magnetic particles which draw towards her any married man whose career is going to go crashing through the doorsteps once his association with the Bimbo hits the lens of a watchful Press photographer. (Sir Ralph is an exception here, but only because we apply different standards to men whose concern is money rather than a craving for power.)

Yet spotting the Bimbo isn't that easy, as *The Wall Street Journal* found out when it set up an investigation to find out what a Bimbo is. Jessica Hahn, who put paid to the goody-two-shoes image of the American evangelist Jim Bakker, proclaimed that she wasn't a Bimbo. Since she made this announcement in *Playboy* magazine, in which she was also photographed in so little clothing that she was in danger of catching a chill, I don't believe her. But it's true that a Bimbo isn't just "the other woman". Sarah Keays is certainly not a Bimbo and I

don't think that Christine Keeler was either — she had a listless quality which makes one suppose that she did what she did best because she couldn't think how else to occupy her time, whereas the genuine Bimbo fairly squeals with enthusiasm.

A letter to *The Wall Street Journal* came from Egypt, and pointed out that there a Bimbo is a chocolate-covered cookie. This must be gratifying to the writer Tom Wolfe, who several years ago referred to a phenomenon called the New Cookie, a toothsome little number who has now been translated into the Bimbo.

What characterizes the Bimbo is her shamelessness. The Bimbo cashes in, Donna Rice, who finished off Gary Hart, has recently been starring in a commercial, asserting that her favourite jeans bear the label "No Excuses".

Dubious behaviour to say the least, but no more unacceptable than our own, when we rejoice in seeing public figures slip on a banana skin. Especially if the banana skin is blonde, wears a leotard, spends a lot of time in a tanning-booth and swears that nobody understands the true nature of her relationship with the man who is now lying in pieces on the pavement.

If a statesman has to be brought down, it's more fun for everyone if the instrument of his downfall is a Bimbo rather than a conviction for insider trading.

Just recently, conventional airmail has been slow getting off the ground.

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# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
★ Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

## THEATRE

**LONDON**

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again following the success of her previous tour. *Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2* (01-836 2650). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-11.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 55.50-17.50.

★ **BELLS ARE RINGING:** Lesley Mackie in Julie Stynes's tune-packed musical. *Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich, SE10* (01-858 7755). Station: Greenwich (15 mins from Charing Cross). First night tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, 23-210.

★ **ELIOT IN THE NIGHT:** Hit black blues show, with Carol Wainman, Debby Bishop, Marie Freeman and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel. *Piccadilly Theatre, Piccadilly, W1* (01-437 4506). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10.30pm, 23-210.

★ **CHICKADEE!** Traditional version with Santa Claus as the prince, black girl Beanie as Cinderella. *Palace Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1* (01-388 1394). Tube: Euston. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.30pm, Tues-Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **COUNTRY MUSIC:** Golden rule: Country music is the only music to be played in the country and back. Five-hour performance with two intervals. *National Theatre (Dorset), South Bank SE1* (01-928 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Previews until Dec 11, 11pm. Press night Dec 12, 8-11pm. Then in rep. Previews 25.50-29. From Dec 12 25-13.

★ **FOLLIES:** Triumphant staging of Sondheim's tribute to showbiz. *Diana Ross and John McVie* lead a starry cast. *Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2* (01-378 5389). Tube: Holborn (Tottenham Court Road). Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **HIGH SOCIETY:** The show of the film. *St. James's Theatre, St. James's, SW1* (01-830 7785). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.45pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Dame Hilda Bracken bursts upon her lady. *Bracken and Dr. Evadne Higgs* offers her Miss Prynne in a hilarious adaptation of Mr. Wilde's original. *Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, SW1* (01-830 7785). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.45pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **LETITIA AND LOVAGE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyacke warring eccentric war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. *Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1* (01-437 3667). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.45-10.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **LYLE:** World premiere of musical by Charles Strouse (composer of *Annie*) about a New York family who adopt the croc they find in their bath. *Sylvia Theatre, King Street, W1* (01-2111). Tube: Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm and Mates Wed and Sat 2.30pm, 23-210.

★ **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS:** Chantel Heston takes over the role of Sir Thomas More in the strongly cast transfer from Chicago. *Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2* (01-836 8888). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **PETER PAN:** Barrie with music; George Cole with the hook, and Lulu flying off to Never-Never-Land. *Cambridge Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1* (01-378 5299). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **PRIVATE MEMBERS:** The two Go-Go Boys have a go at sex scandals in parliamentary life. *Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Road, E1* (01-790 4000). Tube: Stepney Green. Mon-Sat 8-10pm, 23-210.

★ **SERIOUS MONEY:** Caryl Churchill's searing musical play on City ethics. *Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2* (01-836 3028). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs 8-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.45pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** The *Bullheads* Of Murder. *Mayfair Theatre* (01-829 8911). Tube: Mayfair. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 23-210.

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When Cliff Richard (above) arrives on stage, it is usually buried in clouds of dry ice, while the audience, regaled not only by a full-blooded rock'n'roll PA sound, is also bombarded by a laser show which the GLC deemed to be too dangerous for use in London auditoria. The effect is more like what you would expect from Queen or Genesis or Def Leppard, but the performer at the helm of this particular show is a slim 47-year-old, often seen dressed in a spruce shirt and tie, unquestionably the world's most durable pop star. His first hit, "Move It", reached No.2 some 30 years ago, while his 90th success, "Some People", peaked at No.3 less than two months ago. In between, he became England's decidedly pallid answer to Elvis Presley before swiftly "graduating" to the role of family entertainer, Eurovision song contest runner-up and all-round "born again Christian" good guy. Never once has he indicated that he might be thinking of retirement. Despite his determinedly unfashionable progress, Richard's appeal has outlasted everything from the Beatles to Duran Duran, and seasoned fans at his shows bring flowers and teddy bears to the stage, while younger admirers are still heard (occasionally) to scream at his appearance. Cliff begins his nights at NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) tonight at 7pm, 26-210. *David Sinclair*

★ **CLIFF RICHARD:** Recent paintings by the rising star of Scottish romanticism. *Woolwich Arts Centre, William Brown Street, Liverpool* (051 227 5234). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until Jan 10.

★ **THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK:** (18) Jack Nicholson's satirical stranger dominates this bumpy adaptation of John Updike's clever novel about the battle of the sexes. *Camden Theatre, Camden Road, N1* (01-253 8101). Progs 2.30, 5.30, 8.30, 11.15.

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★ **THODAY TRIO:** The Thoday Trio, with Vanessa Scott, soprano, perform items by such diverse composers as Mozart and Satie, Schubert and Salter, Handel and Poulenc. *Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1* (01-928 3191, 01-928 8800). 7.30pm, 23-25.

★ **THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE SOVIET UNION:** Glyndebourne present a semi-staged concert performance of Nigel Osborne's opera with the London Sinfonietta Orchestra conducted by Sgarbi Howarth. *Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1* (01-928 3191). 7.45-10.15pm, 23-215.

★ **ADRIANA LECOUVEREUR:** Clee's opera presented in concert performance by the London Opera Choir with Natalia Trotskaya in the title role. *Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2* (0226 8765). 7.15-9.50pm, 27-52-17.50.

★ **WALKS**

★ **ST THOMAS BECKET:** meet St Paul's tube, 11am, 23.

★ **WALKS**

★ **WALKS**

★ **WALKS**

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**By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent**

**By Andrew Morgan**

## THE TIME

## CROSSWORD

**HDIA** with the word "Cass  
wells" stamped on it; 2. Silver  
mortice key, marked "Unio  
Parkes" and "M159", which  
would fit a three-lever Unio

Continued from page 1

**LIBERTY 11 50**

THIS IS IN SUCH A CASE,

Continued from page 1

Some senior US officials are

President Reagan again praised the treaty as a "good bargain" in his weekly radio address. He said he and the Soviet leader were "in good luck."

relations between their nations are improving, but are still wary of each other.

immense security precautions — "the most well-secured Washington in history", according to US security of-

Continued from page 1

Soviet Union appears to be concerned that Moscow's new approach, while seeming to be a joint achievement" in signing it.

The poll, carried out by *Newsmag* and the Soviet

Some senior US officials are

address. He said he and the Soviet leader would "celebrate

tions are improving, but are still wary of each other governments.

Washington in history", according to US security officials.

**A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the**

b. The marsh spurge  
c. Fibrillation

**E. A. MURPHY**

- ROSS**
- A light blow followed by a cry of pain (6).
- Wildlife sanctuary for saving threatened species (5.3).
- Person in a bad way with depression making answer (10).
- Soldiers going around at 22<sup>nd</sup> (4).
- A boy has to stop outside at a certain time (8).
- Check about a remission (6).
- Notice a blemish (4).
- Ill-health as a consequence of salt-mine ill-treatment (8).
- Tie up and go ashore, though it's sweltering (8).
- The old monarch cheated none (4).
- Book for a young lady — a pound (6).
- Rosemary, Basil and the others soon accepted here for a simple song (8).
- Only required a couple of notes (4).
- Fresh weight given to EEC agriculture by Britain (5.5).
- Misdirected, so it's believed (8).
- 28 Blunders made in terror — some really bad. (6).**
- DOWN**
- 2 Single boy or girl (5).
- 3 He's laid down poor diets must be changed (9).
- 4 An in-flight weakening (6).
- 5 "A woman sat in unwomanly rage, plying her \_\_\_\_\_" (Hood) (6.5).
- 6 Behind everyone else, in spite of everything (5.3).
- 7 A fool accepts credit — though not much (5).
- 8 Having a stretch in the long grass may be recalled (9).
- 9 It makes too much from the tipster here, says the Cockney (9).
- 16 Leaderless men bolt without a shot (9).
- 17 High-level illumination for the supporter? (8).
- 18 A bit of eccentric Breton sisterhood (6).
- 22 Children change inside for race (5).
- 24 Private hotel Her Majesty used (5).

**next Saturday**

Concise Crossword, page 15

rain. South Wales and southern England will be dry with sunny spells and sleet or snow likely on the coast. Scotland, the North, the Midlands and Northern Ireland will be dry with sunny periods. Northern and eastern Scotland may have early sleet or snow. Outlook: Mostly dry with some frosts and fog.

Scarbore	7	45	du
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[illegible]

HIGH TIDES					Buys		Sells	
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	Australia S	2.67	2.69	
					Austria Sch	21.85	20.75	

[illegible]

## THE FOUNDATION

	Buys
allies S	2,67
for Sch	21,45
for Sch	21,45
in S	2,65
mark Kr	12,02
nd Mink	7,70
nd Mink	10,54
ce Dr	3,71
ce Dr	2,10
ng S	1,47
nd K	14,25
Li	2,95
n Yan	2,48
erlands Gld	3,69
my Kr	4,14
nd S	254,50
nd African Rd	12,95
Pte	208,75
nd Kr	11,25
erlands Dr	2,55
erlands Dr	1,58

for small denomination bonds  
as suggested by Barclays Bank  
rent rates apply to bonds.

Price index: 102,9 (October  
1977). The FT index closed at  
1,075.

Perf: The Dow Jones ind

2

London 4.28 pm to 7.22 am  
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.32 am  
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 7.58 am

Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.41 am  
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.37 am

### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 10C (50F); lowest day max: Aviemore 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Guernsey 0.32 in; Nether-

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**Sun rises:** 7.51 am      **Sun sets:** 3.53 pm

NOON

992 1000 1000 1010

 Warm front   
  Cold front  
 Occluded front

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Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

## STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)

FT 30 Share

1262.7 (-45.5)

FT-SE 100

1582.8 (-68.8)

Bargains

26389 (16798)

USM (Datastream)

126.23 (-7.6)

## THE POUND

(Change on week)

US dollar

1.7980 (-0.0080)

W German mark

2.9973 (+0.0057)

Trade-weighted

75.8 (-0.2)

## US NOTEBOOK

Interest  
moves fail  
to impress  
markets

From Maxwell Newton

New York

The European central banks' interest reductions last week have left the American markets cold. The stock markets continued their retreat and on Friday touched the low reached on October 19. Some indexes were actually below Black Monday.

Clearly fearing deflation and recession, the precious metals markets have continued to slide. Compared with the August peaks, at which time the dollar had just begun the fall induced by the withdrawal of foreign central banks' support, gold on Friday was down 2 per cent, platinum was down 25 per cent, and silver down 26 per cent.

The Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices has come down from its recent high of 235, back to 229 on Friday.

The US system is strongly resisting inflation, despite the considerable weakness of the currency. As the figures come in, the most vulnerable sector is personal consumption spending. In "real" terms personal consumption in both September and October was below the September quarter average.

Car sales remain weak. In October-November combined, they averaged 29 per cent less than the September quarter average.

November retailers' sales reports indicated sales growth falling behind the rate of inflation, and as a result the retailers' shares have been battered.

Despair over the dollar abounds. Talk of Y100 and DM150 is now given a perfunctory nod of acquiescence by many traders. This probably means the dollar is close to a bottom. Certainly, on a purchasing power comparison, America today is very cheap compared with the costs in creditor nations. Once the US goes into zero or negative growth — something that may happen late this year or early in 1988 — the dollar will be perceived to have been hit far too hard.

Blue sky forecasts of corporate profits, which seemed so logical to fevered stock salesmen in the mad days before October 19, are now being rapidly downgraded. Some mega-corporations are very tentative.

Pension funds are rejecting stocks. Both Boeing and Rockwell pension funds recently ordered their managers to move out of all shares, thus dumping some \$8 billion (£4.46 billion) of shares on the market.

Meanwhile the once-depressed "Rust Belt" is experiencing a remarkable revival as American industrial exports boom. Industrial production, which rose 1 per cent a year between 1984 and 1986, rose more than 5 per cent in the year to October.

So one previously depressed area of America — the industrial sector — is enjoying rapid expansion.

Another depressed area — energy — may not be so lucky. Mr Charles T. Maxwell, the energy expert at C.J. Lawrence, the broker, has just announced a dramatic forecast of \$15-a-barrel crude oil by February next year, citing excessive stocks and uncontrollable excess production by Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait.

The next tremor will hit the markets on Thursday when the October overseas trade figures are announced. This could well be the occasion for another fall in shares as the "true value" level of about 1,300 on the Dow Jones industrial average.

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SAS ponders  
new B-Cal bid  
Thatcher opposition  
could rule out deal

By Colin Narborough

Scandinavian Airlines System, whose planned partial bid for British Caledonian has run into strong opposition from the Government, is early this week expected to launch a scaled-down proposal it hopes the British authorities will find acceptable.

But, perhaps decisively, Mrs Thatcher is believed to be among the opponents of the approach from SAS, the commercial airline half-owned by the governments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Backed by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Prime Minister feels the Scandinavian governments have blocked attempts to deregulate air travel, and would not reciprocate if Britain were to allow SAS to take effective control of a British scheduled airline.

SAS yesterday declined to comment on the weekend talks in London between Mr Helge Lindberg, the SAS deputy president, and the airline's financial advisers and B-Cal.

The Scandinavians confirmed, however, that the last line of the Civil Aviation Authority statement issued on Friday was still valid. This said the CAA expects SAS and B-Cal to return with new proposals after last week's unsuccessful efforts to obtain a go-ahead from the regulatory authority.

No time-scale was indicated, but SAS is understood to want to get an acceptable plan through by Wednesday, when B-Cal has to make its recommendation to shareholders over the £141 million offer from British Airways.

The CAA told SAS on Friday that its plan to acquire 40 per cent of B-Cal — but only 24 per cent of the voting rights — would not guarantee the necessary British control the authority required. A bid could be acceptable, however, if SAS found a British investor prepared to match its stake in B-Cal.

The biggest shareholder in B-Cal, 31, was not available for comment yesterday on reports that it was ready to provide the balancing British component. The organization, which promotes investment in small and medium-sized industry, currently holds 41 per cent of B-Cal.

SAS is understood to have considered a possible precedent of a Scandinavian airline that was given CAA approval three years ago to take a 49 per cent stake in Genair, a Hum-

berside-based scheduled commuter carrier.

The deal, involving the Danish airline Maersk, was dropped shortly before completion in April 1984. The CAA had, however, deemed control of the airline to be in British hands. Both the Department of Transport and the CAA take the view that that case, which would have involved only £2.7 million, is not comparable to the SAS/B-Cal situation.

The Conservative Party appears to be divided over the issue. Some backbenchers have expressed strong objections to the twin-track policy of pursuing a truly Common Market in goods and services, while acting in a protectionist fashion over a cross-border bid, and that only a partial one.

And Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said yesterday that the Government was trying to block SAS in order to clear the way for BA.

"Having got itself into a mess over both its aviation and competition policies, the Government now seems likely to make matters worse by deciding the future of B-Cal without proper regard for the important considerations," he said.

lowering rates — will endeavour to inject caution into the market's drive for cutting rates.

Analysts believe the Bank was reluctant to see base rates below 9 per cent, with credit growth running ahead strongly and worries about inflation still alive. Such concerns produced an apparently perverse response in the gilt-edged market last week, as prices fell in spite of the reduction in base rates.

The Midland Bank is, however, confident of both low inflation and substantial growth next year. It expects the economy to grow by 3 per cent, alongside an inflation rate — measured by the retail price index — of only 3½ per cent.

The trigger for any further cuts in base rates will be sterling's rate against the mark. Last week the Bank of England succeeded in holding sterling below DM3 by intervening in the markets.

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## Bank of Bilbao calls off bid

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The Bank of Bilbao withdrew its takeover bid for the Banco Español de Crédito here at the weekend after two of Spain's four principal stock exchanges ruled against the bid.

Under new legislation, the takeover could not be carried out without the approval of the majority of the principal exchanges, unless the Ministry of Finance overruled them.

The market in Madrid, as well as the one in Barcelona, rejected the takeover proposal. The Bilbao stock market ruled favourably, and the

Valencia market postponed any decision until this week.

In the circumstances, the Madrid Stock Exchange lifted its ban on share dealings of the two banks, which had been frozen pending the outcome of the takeover action. Trading is to be allowed in those shares from today.

Both the Madrid and Barcelona exchanges withheld their approval because, they claimed, the stock option offered by the Bank of Bilbao in the takeover deal had been decided upon by its board of

directors, whereas only the shareholders at a general meeting have such authority.

The Bank of Bilbao issued a communiqué here on Saturday, saying that "a restrictive and far from unanimous interpretation of the existing legislation could endanger such an important project for the modernization of the (banking) system."

"Some day, somebody will have to pay for this historic blunder," said the president of the Bank of Bilbao, Señor José Angel Asin.

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Offer they cannot refuse: Robert Seear (left) and Ian Ross (Photograph: James Morgan)

Management team bids for  
Westminster refuse buyout

By Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Senior management members of the Westminster, London, street cleansing and refuse collection department, the busiest in Europe, are attempting to buy out the service, which is to be privatized.

The £12 million contract to run the department is being sought by Mr David Meredith, the present deputy director, and two assistant directors, Mr Ian Ross, a former refuse collector, and Mr Robert Seear.

They will be competing against Mr Ian Cooper, the present director, who is leading an in-house bid for the contract on behalf of the workforce.

Westminster City Council, which is Conservative-controlled, decided to seek competitive tenders for the service as a "value-for-money" exercise.

Mr Meredith and his two partners say they are undaunted by the prospect of becoming entrepreneurs rather than managers. Between them they have more than 50 years' experience with Westminster's refuse service.

"There is no one in either the private sector or the city council with more knowledge and experience than we have," Mr Meredith said.

"We worked out the organization and structure of the service."

But were the people responsible for the litter bins the ones best qualified to take over the system, when the objective was to achieve better value for money? "None of us has ever managed from behind a desk," Mr Meredith said. "We go out on the rounds and spot the problems before they grow serious. We would have a free

hand to motivate the lads with proper incentive bonuses."

"The bottom line is to give them more pride and satisfaction from their job at the same time as satisfying the ratepayers. If the company failed to provide an efficient cost-effective service, the penalties would be heavy," he added.

The three officials have bought an off-the-shelf company and are preparing to remortgage their homes to raise the tendering costs, which could amount to £100,000. They expect to have to raise about £2 million to set up in business, but claim no shortage of sources prepared to lend the money.

Mr Meredith said: "We would take over the existing fleet of 150 vehicles and the plant operated by the council department, probably on a lease-back system."

The City is waiting to see the half-year results to be announced this week by Smith New Court, London's only quoted independent market-maker.

Boesky 'to  
face stiffer  
sentence'

By Our City Staff

Speculation is growing in the United States that Mr Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street arbitrator who put the British authorities on to the scent of the Guinness scandal, may face a stiffer sentence than was at first thought likely when he appears for sentencing next week on insider charges.

It is understood that Mr Rudolph Giuliani, the US Attorney for Manhattan, and the US Securities and Exchange Commission promised Mr Boesky leniency in return for his co-operation in tracing stock market wrongdoing.

But opinion seems to support the view that despite the help he has given US and British fraud investigators, it would be morally wrong and politically uncomfortable were Mr Boesky to escape with a stiff fine and a suspended prison sentence.

There is also speculation that Mr Boesky's sentencing may be delayed if his help is still needed in attempts by the US authorities to press insider dealing charges on other Wall Street players.

## BES investors reap reward

By Lawrence Lever

An astonishing gain of about 1,750 per cent in 19 months on one investment has led to a large payout to investors in a Business Expansion Scheme fund managed by Hodgson Martin, the Edinburgh-based venture capital managers.

The payout is due to a highly profitable investment by Hodgson Martin in the Scottish estate agents Stuart Wyse Ogilvie, which has proved the most successful BES investment to date since the scheme was launched in

1983. The BES gives investors tax relief at their highest rates on investments of up to £40,000.

Most investors put their money directly into BES companies, although in the early days the preference was to invest via a fund that offered a spread of suitable companies.

One such fund was the First Abbey BES syndicate. It invested 20 per cent of the money it raised in Stuart Wyse Ogilvie, paying 50p per share. Stuart Wyse was purchased

recently by General Accident for £10 million — or £9.25p a share.

This means that an investor who put £10,000 in the First Abbey BES will shortly be receiving a cheque for £37,000 — and still retain 80 per cent of his original holdings.

Mr Allan Hodgson, managing director of Hodgson Martin, said Stuart Wyse Ogilvie "needed only further equity capital and specialist financial advice in order to realize the company's potential".

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## ANALYSIS

# Galloping ahead of the standard bearers

Q. When is an accounting standard not an accounting standard?  
A. When it is a Technical Release.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' latest offering, Technical Release (TR) 677, *Accounting for Complex Capital Issues*, is one of the few occasions on which the profession has tried to address an issue before it became a problem.

It sets out the institute's view of current best practice in an area where the pace of change is so fast that there is very little guidance in existing literature for accountants in the field.

But it is not an accounting standard, and in this it begs almost as many questions as it is trying to solve.

The subject matter of the release is how accountants should calculate the true cost of borrowing on the burgeoning range of new financial instruments to which companies are increasingly turning in place of straightforward bank loans. Lurking behind such jolly acronyms as Lions, Zebras and Cats is a financial jungle of deep discount bonds, zero coupon bonds, bonds with a range of different conversion rights and the like.

Mr Geoffrey Mitchell, the technical director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, described TR 677 as "a response to requests for help

from members". He said: "Many of our members are already in discussion with their clients for the December year-end and they need this background to order their thinking."

The accounting principle is very simple. The difference between the amount borrowed and the amount repaid is interest. As such, it should be written off annually against the profit and loss account.

One of the most common types of financial instrument is the deep discount bond, where the final redemption value is vastly above the issue price. The recent £157 million financing by Greycoat Group, the property company, is the best-known example in which the first tranche was a £50 million nominal zero coupon bond which was issued at 43.649 per cent to raise £21.5 million.

Had the £21.5 million been raised as a straightforward bank loan, the normal practice for a property company would have been to capitalize the interest until the building was completed. Thereafter, the capitalized interest would be amortized in the profit and loss account against future rental income.

With the deep discounted bond, there is similarly no impact on the profit and loss account until the property is built and rented out. However, on completion of the building, instead of amor-

## Accountants' divisions widen

To most criticisms of tardiness in the standard-setting process, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has produced what it calls a Technical Release (TR 677) on a subject where there is no accounting standard.

The aim of the release is to give guidance to practising accountants on the accounting treatment of complex financial instruments such as zero coupon bonds and the like.

Unfortunately, the institute has put a few noses out of joint in the process, through a failure to carry out meaningful consultation, even with its colleagues on the Accounting Standards Committee and the other professional bodies, before publishing.

Due to the pace of change in

business and in financial markets, accounting standards need to be produced much more speedily.

The ASC is under-financed and under-staffed to meet the demands being placed on it, but a full review of the ASC is now being carried out by a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ronald Dearing (right) to speed up and improve the standard-setting process.

The publication of TR 677 in this way further undermines an already weakened ASC.

At a time when the profession is coming under attack, both in setting standards and in the regulatory environment, the accountants seem to be more divided than ever.



of the technical department of our auditor, Arthur Young," he said.

"We are allowed to use this treatment by the Companies Acts, and we do not think the technical release is relevant to our situation," he said. "The Release is what the English Institute thinks is best accounting practice, but there has been no consultation, as there would have been if it had been a proper accounting standard, issued by the Accounting Standards Committee."

And herein lies the rub.

While TR 677 is admirably clear and timely, it is the view of the English Institute's technical committee and no more than that. It does not have the backing either of the other professional bodies, or of the Accounting Standards Committee.

Indeed, it comes at a particularly sensitive time. The profession is reviewing its whole standard-setting process in the light of big changes in the financial markets. The review committee, chaired by Sir Ronald Dearing, is not only considering the status of standards in relation to company law and their enforcement. It is also examining the need for public consultation in the setting of standards.

In by-passing the Accounting Standards Committee, the English Institute has begged many of the questions in the Dearing committee's terms of reference.

For instance, given the legal profession's known stance on off-balance-sheet finance, there is no reason to suppose that the lawyers will be any more amenable to presenting substance over form in the case of notional interest. The attitude of many lawyers is that if it is permitted by the Companies Acts, it is legal and decent, and never mind whether it is true and fair.

When it comes to enforcement, the sanction, in the case

of an accounting standard, is that companies which fail to comply will have their accounts qualified. Companies which fail to comply with TR 677 against the advice of their auditors may have their accounts qualified, but since the TR does not have the status of a standard, this is most unlikely.

If there had been public consultation, then the views of the property companies like Greycoat could have been examined, and incorporated or rejected as thought fit. But there seems to have been very little consultation in the production of TR 677, even within the profession and the ASC.

The pity of it all is that the TR could have been produced with the backing of the ASC and still be published in a comparatively short space of time. The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants managed to revise SSAP 13 (the research and development standard) inside a year, and the Scottish Institute plans a similar timescale for the revision of SSAP 4, on government grants, due to be finalized early in 1988.

TR 677 is not a standard, and this is its fatal weakness. It may offer technical guidance to the accountant in the field, but if a company wishes not to comply, it will be as difficult to enforce as if it did not exist.

Carol Ferguson

## Financing deal for Brazil 'on target'

New York (Reuter) — Commitments from commercial banks towards a \$3 billion interim financing deal for Brazil now total \$2.9 billion and additional commitments continue to be received, officials said.

The Brazilian government and the Bank Advisory Committee for Brazil also said in a statement the formal signing of the deal, tentatively announced on November 6, would take place a week tomorrow.

The statement was released by Mr William Rhodes, chairman of the 14-member Bank Advisory Committee for Brazil, and Senator Fernando Bracher, special adviser to Brazil's ministry of finance.

Under the agreement, Brazil's central bank was to release \$1.5 billion and commercial banks were to provide \$3 billion with which Brazil would resume interest payments on its suspended foreign debt.

The funds would be used in part to pay interest due from February 20, when Brazil announced the suspension of interest payments on its medium and long-term commercial bank debt, until the end of this month.

The loan would be repayable by the central bank no later than June 30, next year, at an interest margin 7/8 of a per cent over Libor.

## Australia's crude oil estimates cut 25% by Esso

Sydney (AP-Dow Jones) — Australia's crude oil discovery potential has been revised 25 per cent downward by the Australian unit of Exxon, the United States energy corporation.

Esso Australia said in its first published reassessment since 1984 that an estimated 1 billion to 5 billion barrels of oil still remains to be discovered in Australia. The most likely figure is 3 billion barrels.

So far, 4.5 billion barrels have been discovered and 2.5 billion barrels produced.

Discoveries in the Bass Strait have accounted for most of the production, but two-thirds of the oil discovered there has been produced, and three quarters will be used by 1989.

Future production is likely to come from smaller discoveries made over many years and mostly outside the Bass Strait, Esso said. More than 500 exploration wells have been drilled since 1984, providing the information that prompted the revision.

Esso said that it had also taken into account the smaller-than-expected size of recent oil and gas discoveries on Australia's northwest shelf, a lack of success in other off-

shore basins, and a lack of success in onshore basins outside current producing areas.

Esso said Australia's oil self-sufficiency will fall from 100 per cent in 1985 to 25 per cent by the year 2000 if no new discoveries are made.

The company criticized government plans to introduce a resource-rent tax on new offshore discoveries, saying that this would reduce exploration incentives.

● The number of Australian job advertisements fell in November, for the first time in six months. The seasonally adjusted measure of job advertisements, compiled by the Australia & New Zealand Banking Group, fell 1 per cent in November after a 4 per cent rise in October and a 6 per cent jump in September.

Employment advertisements weakened after the stock market slump in October, the bank said. The data are among the first signs that the market crash is likely to have an impact on the economy.

Job advertisements were up 13.9 per cent in the 12 months to November, narrowing from a rise of 16.6 per cent in the 12 months to October.

### BOARD MEETINGS

**TODAY** — Interims: Arien, Avesco, Beaverco, Berkeley Group, Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mining Co, Cranswick Mill Group, Crighton Laboratories, James Crosby Group, Gold Greenless, Iron, GI Asia (Sterling) Fund, Hamilton Oil Corporation, Lynton Property and Reversionary, Optometrics (USA), Osborne and Little, Alfred Freedy and Sons, Reed Executive (Holdings), Scottish & Mercantile Investment, Select Appointments, Sterling Publishing Group, Stirling Group, Finals: S&W Berisford, Carlton Communications, Dobson Park Industries, Durban Rodeport Deep, East Rand Proprietary Mines, Granada Group, VPI Group, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries.

**TOMORROW** — Interims: BBB Design Group, Braithwaite Group, Chapman Industries, Dec Corporation, Deelkraal Gold Mining, Delmar Group, Doornfontein Gold Mining, Driefontein Consolidated, Harland Simon Group, ITL Information Technology, Kloof Gold Mining, Libanon Gold Mining, Venterspost Gold Mining, Vlakfontein Gold Mining, Wardell Roberts, Finals: Burns Anderson, Hoskins Group, Pennine Resources, Redfern.

**WEDNESDAY** — Interims: Walter Alexander, Bogod-Pelepah, BTP, HP Bulmer, Charter Consolidated, Coated Electrodes, Continuous Stationery, Fine Arts Developments, Havelock Europa, M&G Second Dual Trust, Northern Foods, Benjamin Priest Group, Tex Holdings, Thermal Scientific, Tinsley

(Eliza) Group, Tomorrow's Leisure, Watergate International Holdings, Yellowhammer, Finals: Albion, Avon Rubber, Baggeridge Brick, Carr's Milling Industries, Holmes and Marchant Group, YJ Lovell, Smith & Nephew, Stakis, United Scientific Holdings.

**THURSDAY** — Interims: Associated British Engineering, Booth Industries, British Building and Engineering Appliances, Dowry Group, Evans of Leeds, Greycoat, Phoenix Timber Group, Pilkington, Smith New Court, Stewart and Wight, Syltone, Thorn EMI, Finals: Bradstock Group, Irish Distillers Group, Melville Street Investments, Westland Group, Whesoe.

**FRIDAY** — Interims: Bristol Evening Post, Hicking Percost, Alexander Russell, Finals: Associated Paper Industries, Crystalline Holdings, Hardys & Hansons, Yorkshire Television.

### BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	9.00%
SCG	9.00%
Consolidated Grds	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	9.00%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	9.00%
Cmbank NA	8.50%

# STEEL SHAPES UP.

British Steel's results were good last year. This year they're even better.

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This, as our Chairman observes, "represents a further and impressive step forward for British Steel".

By following a step-by-step strategy, we've put ourselves in the first rank of world steelmakers. We're one of the most profitable integrated steel companies in the world.

Our aim is simply stated: to provide manufacturing industry with high-quality steel, competitively priced, delivered on time and backed by first-rate customer service.

This year, the strength of the UK economy has led to higher overall demand for steel: our UK

deliveries are 16 per cent up on the first half of 1986. And we've maintained a high level of exports against fierce competition.

These achievements have taken effort and understanding on all sides. And we couldn't have got this far without genuine enthusiasm from workforce and management alike.

However, as our Chairman warns, we mustn't be complacent.

There's still need to rationalise excess steelmaking capacity in the Common Market; so that the whole industry, not just British Steel, can become more cost-effective.

And the present shape of the US dollar gives everyone cause for concern. In short, we'd better keep doing the exercises.

If you'd like to know more about the shape of British Steel, send in the coupon.

To British Steel Information Services, 9 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SN.

Please send me a copy of your interim results.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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T7/12/87



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1987-8 (first half)  
£190m PROFIT

1986-7 (year)  
£178m PROFIT

1985-6 (year)  
£38m PROFIT

**ZETTERS**  
THE POOL OF LONDON  
Pays Dividends every week!



# Tobacco industry calls for no Budget increase in duty

By Colin Narkewicz

The tobacco industry has urged the Government to leave the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products unchanged in the next Budget, so as not to undo benefits brought to British industry and smokers from this year's zero increase.

The call stands in sharp contrast to the British Medical Association's demand, made in August, for a 21 per cent increase in the duty on cigarettes next March, with 6 per cent rises in following years.

The BMA based its demand on research conducted at the British Medical Council, which claimed that cigarette taxes and prices have fallen in real terms since the late 1940s.

In its annual Budget submission to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, the Tobacco Advisory Council says it

would at best like no duty increase on any tobacco products. At the very worst, increases on duty charged on cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco should be no greater than inflation.

Above all, there must be no large increase, it urges, arguing that such a move would reduce the British tobacco industry's competitiveness and increase import penetration.

The industry also gives a warning that the Chancellor's fiscal policy for tobacco products in general, and for cigarettes in particular, clearly has an impact on the central government objectives of reducing unemployment, lowering personal taxation and eradicating inflation.

It notes, meanwhile, that

beneficial effects of the Government's decision to leave duty unchanged last March are already becoming evident. Importantly, cheap imported cigarettes' share of the British market has fallen for the first time in four years.

But it underlines that this development must be seen against the background of continuing contraction of the total British cigarette market.

It argues that, although more stable, the situation is still "very fragile", and the cigarette market will for some time be particularly sensitive to price changes. What is called for now is consolidation.

This would be best achieved by adopting a moderate fiscal policy that would complement the efforts of British industry

to fend off foreign competition, at the same time contributing towards the Government's central objectives of reducing inflation and unemployment.

Moderate or zero duty increases would also help alleviate the North-South divide, as northerners pay more tax in the form of cigarette duty than people in the wealthier South. The submission points out that the poorest 35 to 40 per cent of households pay the Exchequer more in tobacco duty than in income tax.

The industry notes that British smokers are already paying a relatively high price for their habit. Duty on cigars in Britain is higher than in all but two of the 12 EEC member states. Pipe tobacco prices are also among the highest in Europe, relative to cigarettes.

## Power chiefs face price challenge

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

The chairmen of the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales, 11 of whom are campaigning for their boards to be privatized individually when the Government sells off the industry in 1990, are now finalizing details of the price rises they will announce in the new year.

The board chairmen — only Mr Tom Rutherford who heads the North-eastern board is opposed to privatization — have to meet the new financing targets set by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, which have been designed to provide cash for the power stations programme needed between now and the early part of the next century.

The rises, likely to be about 8 per cent in each area, are to be notified shortly to the area consumer councils and will come into effect on April 1.

However, the national Electricity Consumers Council, is preparing to challenge any price increase unless it is spread evenly between domestic and industrial users.

The council's fears follow an assurance given to the Confederation of British Industry by Mr Parkinson that large industrial customers will still be able to negotiate contract supply terms individually.

Industrial users, particularly the large users in the chemical, paper and glass-making businesses, already claim to pay more for power than their European counterparts and that large rises over the next two years in the run-up to electricity privatization would make them less competitive.

Mr Parkinson has, however, rejected their claims by producing figures which show British industrial power prices are among the lowest in the world and are four times lower than in Japan and three times lower than in West Germany.

He has also told industry leaders they have paid no increase for power in real terms for almost five years and that government figures suggest the rise due next year will add less than one-sixth of 1 per cent to their energy costs.

A spokesman for the Electricity Consumers Council said: "We will be considering the matter very carefully to see if there is any breaking of the rules."

"In any case, we do not think that any price rise can be justified at present. The industry is simply being fattened up for privatization."

## ECONOMIC VIEW The dollar problem bounces back home

Last week's co-ordinated cut in European interest rates puts the ball firmly back in the Americans' court. Europe has done what the US wanted it to do to help bring the world economy more into balance and stabilize the dollar. Now it is up to the US to defend its currency.

Although events have occurred in a different order from what was expected, most of the ingredients of a stabilization package are now in place or on the table. The US has agreed to cut its budget deficit, and last week the initial vote was successfully carried. It should now be possible to meet the December 16 deadline for passing the legislation.

For their part, the West Germans have taken complementary action to boost their economy with a modest fiscal expansion and a cut in the discount rate to a low of 2½ per cent. The other big European economies, with the exception of Italy, have also cut their interest rates. Although Japan has so far taken no action to lower rates, the new Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, has promised an expansionary budget.

These are the sort of measures which it was originally expected would be agreed in the context of a meeting of the finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven nations. As it turns out, the measures have come before the meeting. Nevertheless, it is still worth holding the meeting to formalize publicly the co-operative policy changes which have taken place and to endorse a new period of exchange rate stability. In doing this, the G7 would be following the pattern of the Plaza and Louvre accords which in neither case were the occasion for announcing detailed new policy measures but which both endorsed exchange rate patterns which the market appeared already to have established.

Whether we are now about to enter a period of relative stability for the dollar is still uncertain. On Thursday, the US trade figures for October become available which could, if they are poorer than expected, increase market nervousness. James Capel is forecasting a deficit of about \$15 billion compared with a \$14.1 billion in September and \$15.7 billion in August. Some other analysts, for instance those at Credit Suisse First Boston, are a little more optimistic, expecting about \$14.5 billion.

In the slightly longer term, the crucial question is how US monetary policy develops. It is now clear that the US economy was very strong just before the stock market crash and is well placed to face the effects of the fall in stock market prices on economic expansion. This should help reassure an administration panic-stricken at the possibility of a recession during election year that a prudent financial policy is safe as well as necessary.

Commodity prices have been rising steadily recently and American policy-makers are realizing that the dollar exchange rate cannot be ignored as a source of inflation simply because US external trade is a much smaller proportion of the economy than in Europe. If inflationary indicators worsen, the Fed may have to be prepared to raise the discount rate, even if stock market prices have fallen 30 per cent. Continued refusal to support the dollar will deter foreigners from contributing the savings required to finance the US deficit and interest rates will rise anyway.

Whatever the short-term future for the dollar, last week's interest rate cuts were an impressive demonstration of the reality of policy co-ordination with the G7 and the European Monetary System. Those who have been sceptical that a group of sovereign states could ever recognize their common interest sufficiently to co-ordinate economic policies (which must be most of us) now have some explaining to do.

For the United Kingdom, which remains outside full membership of the EMS, the spectacle of the Bank of England moving its rates in tandem with the Bundesbank, the Banque de France, the Swiss National Bank and the Dutch and Austrian central banks was particularly novel. Some traders on Friday were concluding from this that full British membership of the EMS was imminent. One might equally well infer that if Britain can obtain the benefits of membership while retaining some additional freedom of action by remaining outside, then there is little to gain by joining. In or out, the move underlined the extent to which policy in this country is currently driven by the exchange rate.

Sterling's buoyancy could well bring British interest rates down further before long, though next time independently from other European rates. But if base rates do fall, any cuts may be reversed sooner rather than later. In many monetary and exchange rate policies, the authorities have three options: cutting interest rates, letting sterling rise out of its present band, and intervening. At the time of the election, upward pressure on the pound was judged to be temporary and the Bank adopted a combination of intervention and temporarily lower interest rates which were then raised again at the beginning of August. With the current account deficit almost certain to widen significantly next year, the sight of the pound nudging DM3 may again be fleeting and further interest rate cuts, which are difficult to justify on domestic grounds, be accepted only temporarily.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

## UK visitors spend record £1.5bn

By David Young

Overseas visitors to Britain last year spent a record £1.5 billion, according to the British Tourist Authority.

The authority's chief executive, Mr Michael Medlicott, said: "Since 1980, overseas visitors' spending in Britain has increased by 108 per cent, from £734 million to £1.5 billion. The number of business visitors has risen from 2.5 million in 1980 to nearly 3.3 million in 1986."

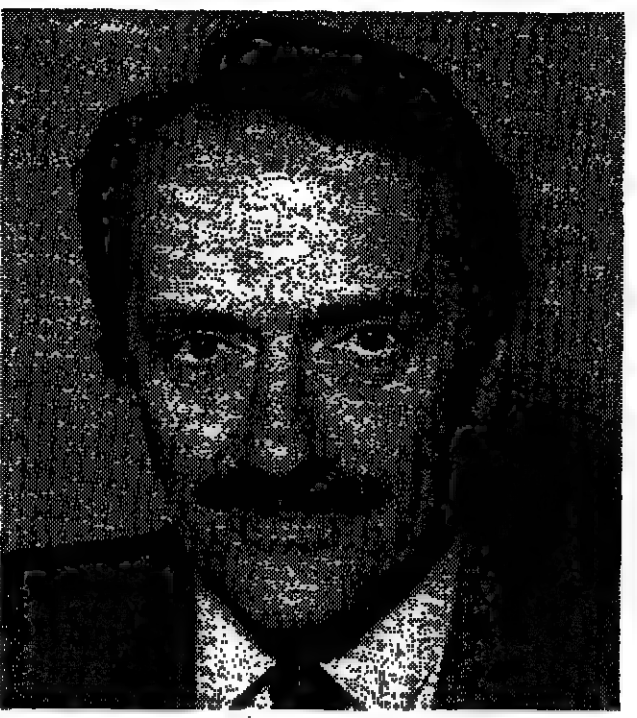
"Britain now has a 10 per cent share of the market for international conferences. We can look forward to international trade following international business visits."

Mr Medlicott said that conferences last year earned £100 million from 213,000 conference delegates.

However, he has also called on the travel industry to support a co-ordinated marketing campaign to enhance Britain's image as a conference and exhibition centre.

He said: "International competition is intense and if we are to continue to attract increasing numbers of visitors, we must maximize our efforts."

Mr Medlicott also predicted that the authority's new European and American databases — which list key overseas



Michael Medlicott: urges backing for marketing campaign

buyers — will become the foundation for business trade promotions.

He said: "The revenue earning databases will be launched early in 1988 and will provide BTA with more money to plough straight into promoting tourism to Britain."

52,000 paid staff and 29,000 volunteers.

The figures show that although overall visits fell by 1 per cent in 1986, there are now signs of recovery, with the National Trust reporting an increase of 4 per cent and English Heritage 14 per cent.

England's most popular free tourist attraction last year was Blackpool pleasure beach with 6.5 million visitors. The British Museum had 3.6 million and the National Gallery 3.2 million.

Madame Tussaud's remained the leading attraction for those paying, with 2.4 million visitors. Alton Towers attracted 2.2 million and the Tower of London 2 million.

The attraction showing the highest percentage increase in visitors was the exhibition centre at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing centre. It handled 52,000 visitors last year, 160 per cent up on the 20,000 who passed through in 1985.

The most popular attractions remain museums with 57 million visitors.

Historic buildings attracted 52 million and 19 million visited wildlife parks.

The English Tourist Board said the leisure industry invested £70 million in new attractions last year.

## China orders mini power station

By Our Energy Correspondent

A British-designed and built mini power station has been ordered by the Chinese government to provide additional power for the industrial town of Guan Dong.

The diesel-powered generating station, of a type that could be used by private power generators in Britain after the privatization of the electricity industry, is now being commissioned and will produce first power only five months after a firm order was placed with Newman Generators, of Twickenham.

The station is powered by five large Cummins diesel engines driving Newman Stamford alternators. The engines and alternators work on a cascade system, switching on only as power demand rises. The station will have a peak

output of five megawatts and was ordered by the Chaoyang regional government as demand for power within Guan Dong outstripped the output from the existing power plant.

This has meant that some industrial users have had to face two days each week without power.

**John Brown and Shell-Esso win**

A design for a North Sea oil production platform jacket, which trimmed 30 per cent from the original forecast price, has won the 1987 Saltaire Award for Civil Engineering Design.

The award was won by John Brown, a Trafalgar House company, and the Shell-Esso partnership which will operate the Eder field.

## Sizewell B first stage completed

By Our Energy Correspondent

The first stage of construction of the Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk has created a record — the station, second, if the length of the public planning inquiry is taken into consideration.

The underground wall which surrounds the site has been built in 19 weeks, two ahead of schedule, and within the £10 million project cost.

The contractors, Balfour Beatty and the French company Stent Foundations, used two earth-moving machines designed and owned by the French group to surround the site with a concrete wall 1,330 yards long and 180 feet deep.

The wall is the biggest and deepest ever built in Britain, and has involved the use of 120,000 tonnes of concrete.

Mr Oil Blackman, the Central Electricity Generating Board's deputy chairman, said: "By completing this first major task ahead of schedule, we have provided a firm foundation for the rest of the construction programme and set standards which the CEGB will expect other contractors to meet."

"The CEGB is determined that Sizewell B will be providing power to the system in 1994. It is a tight target we have set ourselves, but it is one we must meet if we are to go on to develop our pressurized water reactor programme."

"This new plant is needed if the CEGB is to meet the continuing growth in demand for electricity as we move into the next century," he said.

## Arrow all a-quiver

The Government could have a buyer waiting in the wings for Professional and Executive Recruitment, the state-run middle management recruitment service which, it announced last week, may soon be transferred to the private sector. Blue Arrow, the employment to cleaning empire run by Tony Berry, has, I hear, registered a tentative interest with the Government, with a view to buying the entire PER operation. "We have spoken to the Government about it many times in the past and we are certainly interested in talking to them about it further," says Mike Crosswell, a Blue Arrow director and chairman of its British employment group. But he denied reports that an offer was already on the table. "The sums have yet to be worked out," he says. "Getting it ready for the private sector is a long-term programme because its structure is so complicated." Lloyds Merchant Bank, which is advising the Government on the feasibility of transferring the service to the private sector, is expected to report to Employment Minister Norman Fowler early in the new year.

● Heartfelt condolences to Nigel Knott, chairman of fast-growing Williams Holdings, for a thoroughly bad year. In April he lost his £570 million takeover bid for Norcor and now, after a shooting accident last week, I hear that he has lost a finger on his right hand. We wish him better luck in 1988.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### The names of the gain

Unsettled amid the constant hurry-burry of London's financial markets, a well-educated Frenchman has been quietly fostering a rebirth of classicism within the Square Mile. A classics scholar, Pierre Monasse, chairman of French bank Paribas until it was nationalized in 1981, has apparently passed his privately owned master company,

new worth some £286 million, Pallas Athena, after the Greek goddess of wisdom. Now I hear that a newly established equity-levelling subsidiary of Cereale, a market-maker in equity related securities of which he bought control from S&W Berisford in July, is now to be called Minerva. Minerva is the Roman name for the same goddess.

### Burning issue

Senior staff at James Capel nearly had their fingers burned — literally — last week. Towards the end of their annual dinner at the Savoy, the lights were dimmed in readiness for the dramatic arrival of the flambe. A match was struck, the pudding caught fire, but so, unfortunately, did the alcohol-soaked

tablecloth. No harm was done, I am assured, except to the Savoy's table linen. But with all this talk of big job cuts within the Square Mile, the chaps at James Capel are said to be hoping that this is the nearest they will ever come to being fired.

### Close link?

Perhaps the merry-go-round of Big Bang managements isn't quite over. John Harkness, senior partner of respected regional stockbroker firm Earnshaw Haes, whose London office nestles up against the mighty Casanova in Tokenhouse Yard, denies that a number of his corporate finance staff have been axed. "No, not this week," he told me unambiguously on Friday. But he was even less forthcoming when it came to my question about Earnshaw's rumored merger with a Swiss-based fund management consortium by the name of Inter-Alliance. "No comment," he said tersely.

Carol Leonard



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PLEASE NOTE: Prices of Futures and Options move up and down very rapidly indeed. NEVER speculate with money you cannot afford to lose.



# Midland's broker to use Kleinwort service

By Alison Eadie

Kleinwort Grieveson Securities has signed up Midland Stockbrokers, the retail stockbroker subsidiary of Midland Bank, as the twelfth subscriber to its automatic small-order execution system for agency brokers.

Kleinwort believes its service, which was launched in May, is unique because it offers agency brokers a best price execution service for smaller bargains, without any need to make telephone calls. The service came into its own in the week following Black Monday, registering a record volume when market-makers either could not or would not answer their phones.

Agency brokers had instant on-screen access to Kleinwort's prices and could obtain a quick execution at the best price offered on the Stock Exchange's Automated Quotations system (SEAQ).

The size of transaction Kleinwort is prepared to do at best, depends on the stock. There are set ceilings in the larger stocks such as British Telecom and British Gas, which the agency broker will

know. Otherwise the broker can inquire on-screen about the limits.

The system extends to all 600 or so stocks in which Kleinwort makes a market.

The subscribing stockbrokers can enter the system only from their own terminal in their offices. The SEAQ best price is held firm for one minute for them to deal.

The system, which was devised for Kleinwort by Mr William Mellan, senior director of market-making, now accounts for 25 per cent of all Kleinwort's trades.

Mr David Clementi, managing director of Kleinwort Grieveson Securities, said it meant that Kleinwort was "never knowingly undersold." The system proved its worth during the hectic trading witnessed in October, he added.

Other stockbrokers using the service include Brewin Dolphin; Chambers & Remington; CL Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank; Lawrence Kean; Keith, Bayley, Rogers; and Stock Beech.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 75.8 (day's range 75.8-76.0).

### STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 4

Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.7975-1.8130	1.7975-1.7985	0.12-0.13
London	2.3547-2.3650	2.3547-2.3578	0.04-0.07
Amsterdam	2.3582-2.3740	2.3582-2.3740	1-1/2-1/4
Brussels	62.35-62.85	62.35-62.52	1-1/2-1/4
Frankfurt	11.5382-11.5940	11.5382-11.5940	1-1/2-1/4
Paris	11.5382-11.5940	11.5382-11.5940	1-1/2-1/4
Geneva	2.0945-2.0995	2.0945-2.0995	1-1/2-1/4
Madrid	202.75-203.65	202.75-203.65	75-85
Milan	202.75-203.65	202.75-203.65	75-85
Rome	202.75-203.65	202.75-203.65	75-85
Stockholm	10.8401-10.8771	10.8401-10.8771	1-1/2-1/4
Oslo	20.91-21.12	20.91-21.12	1-1/2-1/4
Vienna	20.91-21.12	20.91-21.12	1-1/2-1/4
Zurich	20.91-21.12	20.91-21.12	1-1/2-1/4

Premium = pr. Discount = dc.

### DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Ireland	1.5955-1.5975	Denmark	6.4050-6.4100
Singapore	2.1320-2.1350	West Germany	1.6510-1.6550
Malaysia	2.4980-2.5000	Switzerland	1.5270-1.5300
Australia	0.8975-0.8985	Netherlands	1.8280-1.8300
Canada	1.3100-1.3110	France	5.4320-5.4340
Sweden	1.3230-1.3240	Japan	11.71-11.73
Norway	6.4400-6.4450		

### MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %	Clearing Banks %	Finance House %
Discount Window Lending %		
Overnight High: 5% Low: 4% Week: 4%		
Treasury Bills (Discount %)		
Buying: 2 mth - 5 1/4 3 mth - 5 1/4		
Selling: 2 mth - 5 1/4 3 mth - 5 1/4		
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)		
1 mth: 8 1/4 2 mth: 8 1/4 3 mth: 8 1/4		
6 mth: 8 1/4 12 mth: 8 1/4		
Trade Bills (Discount %)		
1 week: 8 1/4 1 mth: 8 1/4 3 mth: 8 1/4		
6 mth: 8 1/4 12 mth: 8 1/4		
Interbank %		
1 week: 8 1/4 1 mth: 8 1/4 3 mth: 8 1/4		
6 mth: 8 1/4 12 mth: 8 1/4		
Local Authority Deposits %		
2 day: 8 1/4 7 day: 8 1/4 1 mth: 8 1/4		
3 mth: 8 1/4 6 mth: 8 1/4 12 mth: 8 1/4		
Local Authority Bonds %		
1 mth: 8 1/4 2 mth: 8 1/4 3 mth: 8 1/4		
6 mth: 8 1/4 12 mth: 8 1/4		
Standing CDs %		
1 mth: 8 1/4 3 mth: 8 1/4 6 mth: 8 1/4		
12 mth: 8 1/4		

### EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	1 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Dollar	6 1/4-6 1/2	7 1/4-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 3/4	7 3/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 3/4
Deutschmark	3 1/2-3 3/4	3 3/4-4 1/4	4 1/4-4 3/4	4 3/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 3/4
French Franc	8 1/4-8 3/4	8 3/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	9 3/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 3/4
Italian Lira	11 1/4-11 3/4	11 3/4-12 1/4	12 1/4-12 3/4	12 3/4-13 1/4	13 1/4-13 3/4
Japanese Yen	4 1/4-4 3/4	4 3/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 3/4	5 3/4-6 1/4	6 1/4-6 3/4
Swiss Franc	6 1/4-6 3/4	6 3/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 3/4	7 3/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 3/4
Yen	4 1/4-4 3/4	4 3/4-5 1/4	5 1/4-5 3/4	5 3/4-6 1/4	6 1/4-6 3/4
Call 3-6%					

### TREASURY BILLS

Applicable	Received	Next
Applicable: \$200.5m	Received: \$200.5m	Next: \$200.5m
Applicable: \$200.5m	Received: \$200.5m	Next: \$200.5m
Applicable: \$200.5m	Received: \$200.5m	Next: \$200.5m

Company	Price	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5

Company	Price	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5

Company	Price	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5

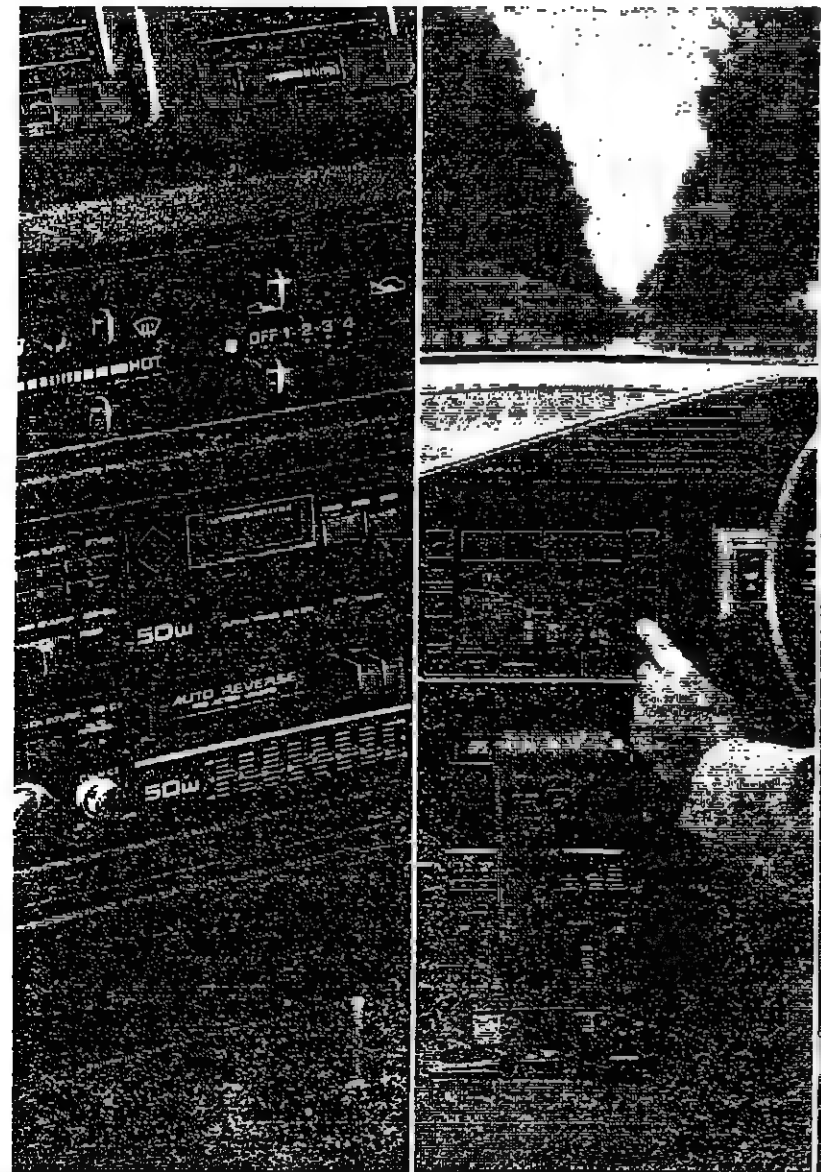
## THIRD MARKET

Company	Price	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5

## GOLD

Company	Price	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open	Close	Settle
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5
22.5m Mays	22.5	0.5	10	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.5	22.5

Automobiles should be more than safe, comfortable machines. They should also be able to communicate with the world around them.



Hitachi's wide-ranging automotive technologies include car audio, the Satellite Drive Computer System featured on Nissan's CUE-X concept car and a microcomputer engine control system.



Recent advances in car electronics technology have been remarkable. They've not only improved basic functions such as engine control, they're now being seen in man-machine interfaces providing more comfort and operating ease, and even in communications with the surrounding world. Down the road there are things even more exciting.

Hitachi's scientists and engineers are at work on a Multi Information System using a colour thin film transistor LCD to display operating information, road maps and a navigational system using these maps. With this system a driver could obtain a variety of driving information simply by touching the display screen. Eventually, he'll be able to issue verbal commands to, for instance, regulate the temperature within his car. Hitachi electronics and semiconductor technology can also bring free communication with the outside and determine a car's exact location through use of Global Positioning System satellites.

Hitachi have also developed a highly acclaimed hot wire air flow sensor used in engine management. It helps achieve the diametrically opposed goals of maximum power and fuel economy. And we've created many other superior products for driving control, suspension control, air-conditioning and audio.



We link technology to human needs, and believe that our special knowledge will create new, highly sophisticated functions that are also easy to operate. Our goal in automotive electronics — and medicine, energy and consumer electronics as well — is to create and put into practice innovations that will improve the quality of life the world around.









*Portfolio*  
*—Gold—*

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Shawcross	330	+52	8.8	33.11.3
South Coast	278	+1	5.2	2.4
Smurfit (Lanc)	250	+48	8.7	1.2
United Walker	200	+18	11.4	8.7 11.9
VR Co	221	+19	9.2	1.4 10.7
WCP	178	+17	9.3	2.4 10.7
MHCPS	332	+30	4.2	2.3 20.6
Wes	189	+22	8.8	2.4 10.7
Waddington (A)	189	+17	8.8	5.1 11.1
Waltham	285	+10	10.7	2.8 20.9

PROPERTY				
Alfred Loh	82	+4.5	2.8	3.8 16.7
Armstrong Beam	123	+10	8.7	8.8 18.9
Atlas	508	-	4.3	1.0 43.2

Spain (P)	350	0	18	13	13
Spain (N)	350	0	18	13	13
St. Lucia	218	0	22	22	13
St. Vincent	218	0	22	22	13
Canada	102	0	13	13	13
Cuba (M) (Sore)	186	-4	13	13	13
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## TENNIS

## Wimbledon final epic is appetizer at Masters

By Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent

The first day's programme in the Nabisco Masters doubles tournament, to be played at the Albert Hall from Wednesday to Sunday, will end with a repetition of the Wimbledon final. That was a special occasion, because Ken Flach and Robert Seguso came back from two sets down — the first pair to do so since 1927 — to beat Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez.

Wednesday's order of play will begin at 11 a.m. with Peter Doolan and Laurie Warder versus Paul Anncone and Christo van Rensburg, followed by Scott Davis and David Flate meeting Gary Donnelly and Peter Fleming. The evening programme from six o'clock will be Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd playing Miloslav Mezir and Tomas Smid.

The eight teams will be split into two groups in a round-robin series before the successful pairs advance to Saturday's semi-finals. The final will be played at 1 p.m. on Sunday, with the winners taking about £40,000 and the runners-up £20,000.

Edberg and Jarryd are the Australian and United States champions and Jarryd also won the French title in 1986 with Seguso. In addition to their Wimbledon title, Flach and Seguso were runners-up for the United States championship.

The Edberg-Jarryd group is completed by Anncone and van Rensburg, Mezir and Smid, and Doolan and Warder. Flach and Seguso will be challenged by Casal and Sanchez, Donnelly and Fleming and Davis and Pate.

Gabriela Sabatini crushed Bettina Fulco, also of Argentina, 6-0, 6-2 to reach the women's final of the Argentine Open against Isabel Cusio in Buenos Aires.

## BOXING: EASTWOOD PLANNING TO TAKE THE EASIEST ROUTE TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

## Graham's title shot could leave him out in the cold

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Herol Graham is back on the trail of the world title after his seventh-round win over Ricky Stackhouse, of the United States, at Adwick-Le-Street, near Doncaster on Saturday. At the end of the day, however, he could be left wearing a belt his own country does not recognize.

His manager, B.J. Eastwood, is planning to put him in for Frank Tate's International Boxing Federation title. But the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) does not recognize the organization. In such a case, neither Graham's challenge, nor any defence, can be held in Britain. Indeed, he may always have to box abroad.

Eastwood is planning to hold the title bout in Dublin. The Irish Permanent Building Society is thinking of backing Graham, its managing director, Ende Hogan, said after the contest. No date has been pencilled in yet, but "the sooner the better", Eastwood says.

Eastwood has picked Tate because Thomas Hearn, the World Boxing Council champion, will be busy dealing with Marvin Hagler, and Mike McCallum, who is expected to beat Sumbu Kalambay for the WBA title, will be too expensive to bring over.

The fact that Tate does not possess the fearsome punching power of the other two may also have had something

to do with Eastwood's thinking. Besides, Eastwood was delighted that Graham did not concede even one round to the man who took three from Tate.

Even though Ireland's biggest bookmaker knows boxing form lines are unreliable, and Stackhouse believes that Tate would be too clever for Graham, Eastwood feels that a 25 per cent improvement on Saturday's performance will enable Graham to lift the title.

Graham's supporters were delighted he had patched up his differences with Brendan Ingle, his trainer, and had returned to the Ingle School of Boxing.

At first Graham was a bit untidy and snatched at his shots. Perhaps this was the result of his six-month lay-off after his defeat by Kalambay in May. But as his hands dropped and he relaxed into his old ways, he pulled out some beautifully-timed left hands as Stackhouse kept coming in.

Eastwood will clearly have to talk with the BBBC, about the IBF title, but he might find himself called before the stewards before that. If Gary Davidson is given a dressing down for having a bookmaker at his show in Battersea, the board will have to call Eastwood before it as well as he had a bookmaker, Steve Keys, in the hall at Adwick.



Victory salute: Herol Graham celebrates with daughter Natasha and trainer Brendan Ingle

## ICE HOCKEY

## Cup joy for determined Wasps

By Norman de Mesquita

A four-goal second period, with three of them coming in the space of two and a half minutes, gave Durham Wasps a convincing 11-5 win over Macclesfield Racers in the final of the Norwich Union Cup at Kildale on Saturday.

The teams shared eight goals in the first period, but every sign that it would continue to be a nip and tuck affair. That Wasps tightened up their defence after the first interval and started to put together some effective passing moves to leave the Racers way behind.

Before the game, Racers were slight favourites, mainly because Wasps were down to only two players, following the departure of Martin Belanger. This may have proved Racers' undoing as Wayne Evans, the Wasps coach, suggested that this made his team more determined.

Certainly the contribution of their all-British second line of Ian Cooper and the Johnson brothers was the main difference between the sides. They accounted for five goals and also assisted and the coach had no qualms about playing them against the Racers first line.

Racers, in contrast, were reduced to a succession of one man forays and rarely put together more than two passes in any one movement. Tony Hase, as usual, was their most dangerous player, but he lacked the sort of support that the Durham players were giving each other.

At the back, Racers struggled with Chris Kalland, now in his eighth season with the club, looking as though the excessive ice time he is asked to take, is at last taking its toll.

Mike Kelly, coach of the Racers, was muttering in his praise of the Wasps. "They did not stop working," he said. "We did not work well as a team and they caught us a little off guard."

## SKIING

## An ill wind blows some good for unknown Swiss

From Iain Macleod, Val d'Isère

A bank of thick fog engulfed the middle section of the Orreiller-Killy course yesterday forced abandonment of the first men's World Cup downhill of the season.

The race, which was initially allowed to proceed after a two-hour delay, was twice halted as the weather deteriorated and it was decided to stop and try again this morning.

The conditions had also been a dominant factor in the second women's World Cup downhill race, held on Saturday. For just when it seemed that Marina Kielh, of West Germany, was about to break the Swiss mould of dominance, the weather changed abruptly, and the race suddenly and unexpectedly took a dramatic twist at almost every turn.

It fell to Chantal Bourissen, aged 20, an unknown Swiss, to create the main upset. Starting on the course at a lowly No. 36, Bourissen completed the 2,199 metre course in 1min 22.66sec to gain her first World Cup victory.

Kielh, however, could have been forgiven for thinking that the race had already been won. Starting No. 6, she set the hitherto fastest time of 1min 22.77sec and then watched the remainder of the elite top 15 fail to better her finishing time. But when Katie Casey, of Canada, 27th in the starting order, finished in 1min 23.01sec to go into second place, the race assumed a new and bizarre perspective.

Conditions at the top of the course were such that visibility was very poor. As the headwinds which greeted the first score or so racers suddenly became a tailwind, the usually unhealed late starters took advantage to enjoy some rare moments of glory.

Bourissen subsequently deposited Kielh and as the other late

starters — notably Campegnoni, of Italy (46), and Stangassner, of West Germany (50), who finished third and fourth respectively — the seeded racers who had clearly been disadvantaged by the less-favourable early conditions, ultimately claimed only three top-ten places, with the likes of Maria Walliser, winner of Friday's downhill, this time languishing in seventeenth place.

Bourissen, a typically

Nykanen victor

Matti Nykanen, of Finland, the reigning Olympic champion, began the World Cup ski jumping season by winning the 70-metre event in convincing fashion at Thunder Bay, Ontario, on Saturday. His two jumps of 95.5 and 94.5 metres — the only ones over 90 metres — earned him 250.2 points, well ahead of Pavel Place, of Czechoslovakia, who scored 227.2, and Austria's Ernst Vettori, on 220.9. Eighty jumpers from 17 countries competed in the first of the 22 World Cup ski jumping events.

accomplished skier, felt overwhelmed by her unexpected triumph. "I had merely wanted to consolidate on my team's position at the previous day. I was a great surprise to me that I won."

Laurie Graham, of Canada, who was equal fourth, offered the most telling summation when she declared that "I could have skied the race of my life and I still would not have won."

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP DOWNHILL: 1. Chantal Bourissen (S) 1:22.66; 2. Marina Kielh (G) 1:22.77; 3. Katie Casey (C) 1:23.01; 4. D. Stangassner (G) 1:23.94; 5. J. Stangassner (G) 1:24.01; 6. G. Posch (A) 1:24.07; 7. B. Wall (A) 1:24.16; 8. K. Lee (C) 1:24.27; 9. M. Walliser (S) 1:24.35; 10. M. Nykanen (F) 1:24.35; 11. S. Vettori (A) 1:24.35; 12. W. Campegnoni (I) 1:24.35; 13. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 14. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 15. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 16. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 17. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 18. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 19. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 20. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 21. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 22. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 23. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 24. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 25. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 26. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 27. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 28. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 29. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 30. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 31. G. Stangassner (G) 1:24.35; 32. G. 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